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OPINION METER

This week's poll:
Do you support a proposal to hire medical doctors from countries other than the U.S. and Canada?

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PANDEMIC ALERT STATUS

PHASE 6

As of July 29, 2009

Phase 1: Viruses circulating among animals have yet to cause infections in humans.

Phase 2: An animal influenza virus is causing infection in humans, and is considered a potential pandemic threat.

Phase 3: An animal or human-animal influenza virus has caused sporadic cases or small clusters of disease in people, but has not resulted in human-to-human transmission sufficient to sustain community-level outbreaks.

Phase 4: Verified human-to-human transmission of an animal or human-animal influenza virus able to cause "community-level outbreaks."

Phase 5: A strong signal that a pandemic is imminent and that the time to finalize the organization, communication, and implementation of planned mitigation measures is short.

Phase 6: The pandemic phase, is an indication that a global pandemic is underway.

For more information about the H1N1 flu, contact DPH at 236-8797, Monday to Friday, from 8am to 5pm, 234-8950 during after hours, e-mail cnmiphoc@gmail.com, or visit www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/.

Source: CNMI Department of Public Health, World Health Organization

INSIDE

Sleep Aid Search

Federal agents searched the home and office of Michael Jackson's personal physician Tuesday in a widening investigation of whether administering a powerful anesthetic as a sleep aid was so reckless that it constitutes manslaughter.

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HANMI chair Knight moves to DC. **PAGE 3**

DPH monitors 4 probable H1N1 cases

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

The Department of Public Health is currently monitoring four probable new cases of H1N1 influenza, which could bring the total number of swine flu cases in the CNMI to six.

However, DPH clarified that there remains only two laboratory confirmed H1N1 cases in the Commonwealth. These are the two cases that were reported.

See DPH on Page 4



DANDAN NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

The Dandan Community Watch Project recently was established to rid the neighborhood of graffiti, junk cars, and unsightly eyesores and also to make the neighborhood clean healthy, robust, and beautiful. The group's first community action project is to clean and restore the functionality of the Dandan Community Center for community use and hosting of community events. Members of the group, seated from left, are Lucy Piteg, Sgt. Ben Sablan, Municipal Council chairwoman Antonia Tudela, and Vicky Espayos. Standing from left, Maggie T. Camacho, John Arriola, Brian Reyes, Doming Luzuiminda, Gary Esconde, Raymond Sablan, Captain Frank B. Camacho, John DLGuerreo, Susupe/Chalan Kanoa captain Eric Atalig, Jun Boom Camacho, Robert Palacios, and Municipal Council vice chairman Ray B. Camacho.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

'US military interested in Pagan'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Senate President Pete Reyes said the U.S. military is interested in Pagan, a volcanic island located 173 nautical miles north of Saipan.

In an interview, Reyes said Brigadier General Philip M. Ruhlman, commander of the U.S. Air Force



Reyes

36th Wing stationed at Andersen Air Force Base in Guam, during a courtesy meeting at the Legislature on Tuesday confirmed that the military is interested in Pagan for training purposes.

Reyes said the military is looking at Pagan as possible training ground for simulated war exercises.

See US on Page 4

Customs to launch online tax payment

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

After reporting a "downed" computer system in June that resulted in longer customs clearance, the Division of Customs Services yesterday said it will be launching an improved system on Aug. 1 that allows for online tax payments,

among other things.

Customs director Jesus C. Muna said in an interview that the customer-friendly online customs tax payment service or e-customs will not be mandatory among importers or consignees.

"It's optional. It will make the system more accessible to custom-

See CUSTOMS on Page 4

Masked man stages armed poker robbery

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

A masked man armed with a gun robbed a poker establishment in Kagman III yesterday morning.

A responding police officer recovered near the crime scene \$4,000 in cash believed to be stolen from 10-21 Poker, according to Department

See MASKED on Page 4



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SEE INSIDE FOR DETAILS

Local

Commerce: ARRA not intended for animal shelter program

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI cannot tap into American Recovery Reinvestment Act funds to implement its long-delayed dog control program because the funds are not earmarked for the project, according to Commerce Secretary Michael Ada.

The Cabinet official was responding to a July 7 request by Saipan Mayor Juan B. Tudela for the Office of the Governor to include the animal shelter program in its grant application for ARRA funds.

Tudela requested \$160,000 funding in order to begin the implementation of the municipality's stray dog control program which, so far, had only been appropriated \$75,000 since a law was enacted in 2002.

Ada said the request for funding was not ignored, but added there is not a single funding pot which would cover the project under the stimulus funds.

"The ARRA is not an open invitation for any and all projects,

rather the act is specific for what types of projects will be funded. Simply developing the project is not sufficient to get the funds,"



Ada

Ada explained, adding that even if there were funds available under the ARRA specific to an animal shelter, it would be the responsibility of the mayor's office to develop the appropriate application to submit for these funds.

Though he understands the mayor's frustration with the situation, Ada however said the

project was submitted through the proper vetting process mandated by ARRA law.

He said if and when a funding stream under the stimulus money becomes available for the project, the mayor's office is more than welcome to go after that funding pot.

He said the mayor must submit its own application and may put any matching requirements as mandated by law.

"The stray animal situation is no doubt an issue that we have to content with, but the ARRA does not address that. It addresses infrastructure, alterna-

tive energy, education, health, and information technology," Ada explained.

The secretary said his department is willing to extend assistance to the mayor in preparing and submitting such application.

According to Mayor Tudela's public information officer, Tony Benavente, the mayor for years has appealed to both Executive and Legislative branches to approve request for additional appropriation which have all been unnoticed and ignored.

"It is so sad that a prominent leader of the Legislature and a Cabinet official of the administration vividly expressed negative reaction to the mayor's

request for ARRA funding..." Benavente told Ada in his letter expressing the need to build the dog kennels.

In an interview with Benavente yesterday, he refused to disclose the names of the two officials.

Due to the bad experience of some tourists involving stray animals, Benavente said that it's time to take immediate action to remedy the serious problem.

"Officials of our administration and the Legislature need to wake up and approve local funding and let go of ARRA funds for the mayor of Saipan to construct a permanent animal shelter," he added.

Absence of Rev&Tax nod partly delays payouts to MTC retirees

Lawmakers give Finance until this week to respond to inquiry

By **HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**
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REPORTER

The Division of Revenue and Taxation of the Department of Finance has yet to issue final approval on the distribution of pension payouts to former employees of the Micronesian Telecommunications Corp., partly delaying the payment of over \$1 million to hundreds of former MTC employees.

MTC, now IT&E, was also hit by sharp decline in stock last year, contributing to the delay in payouts to former employees.

After a meeting yesterday afternoon, the House Committee on Public Utilities, Transportation and Communication chaired by Rep. Victor Hocog (Ind-Rota) decided to give acting Finance Secretary Robert Schrack until this week to explain the lack of decision to date by Rev&Tax on IT&E's July 1, 2008 submission of an application and documents to end the termination of the retirement plan for former MTC employees.

"To date, there's no response to the committee's July 21 letter to Mr. Schrack as to what happened to the IT&E documents and application letter since July last year," Rep. Francisco Dela Cruz yesterday said in an interview. Schrack could not be immediately reached for comment.

Besides Hocog and Dela Cruz, other committee members present were Rep. David Apatang and House Speaker Arnold I. Palacios.

Larry Knecht, executive vice president of IT&E, said they are waiting for Rev&Tax's final approval of the distribution.

The PUTC Committee earlier asked IT&E to produce documents and answer questions relating to the unpaid pension payouts to former

MTC employees.

Knecht, in response, said IT&E, formerly MTC, is "not remiss" in any of its obligations.

"When we receive final approval of the distribution, we will advise the beneficiaries accordingly," Knecht told Hocog.

Over a year ago or on July 1, 2008, IT&E sought a favorable determination on its retirement plan from the Division of Revenue & Taxation. That request is still pending.

In addition, on Dec. 29, 2008, IT&E received notification from the Washington, D.C.-based Pension Benefit Guaranty Corp. that the final distribution is required within 120 days after approval from the Internal Revenue Service which in this case means the local taxing authority—the Division of Revenue and Taxation—said Knecht.

It was Dela Cruz who brought up the issue of unpaid retirement payouts to former MTC employees in June. Yesterday, Dela Cruz said the House PUTC Committee continues to monitor the issue.

Knecht reiterated that IT&E had expected to make a final distribution by this time, but it was delayed in part by last year's sharp decline in the stock.

"Fortunately, market conditions have improved considerably and we hope that they continue to improve which will favor a distribution in the near-term future," he added.

'Misconception'

Knecht told Hocog that there appears to be a misconception that IT&E is attempting to withhold benefits from retirees and former employees which he said is simply not the case.

He said IT&E, in coordination with its representative

See **ABSENCE** on Page 4

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CNMI gets ARRA competitive grant award for police hiring

On Tuesday, the CNMI government received its second competitive grant award from ARRA funds.

In a letter to Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and DPS Commissioner Santiago Tudela, David M. Buchanan, the Acting Director of the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS), informed the CNMI government that it has been awarded a grant of \$519,048.00. The grant award will fund the hiring of nine DPS police officers for a three-year period.

In his State of the Commonwealth Address on May 27 of this year, Fitial mentioned the CNMI's pending grant application for the COPS program under the Department of Justice, which will provide the CNMI with additional law enforcement personnel to more adequately meet the CNMI's public safety needs.

"I thank the staff at the Department of Public Safety for working with our Com-

merce Department to successfully secure this grant for the CNMI," said Fitial.

The governor noted that this second successful competitive grant award follows the Division of Environmental Quality's successful competitive grant application for federal stimulus funds.

The CNMI Division of Environmental Quality was recently awarded a grant of nearly \$3 million to protect coral reefs around the Laolao Bay area. The grant was awarded by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration in Washington, D.C.

"This Administration is making meaningful progress on federal stimulus funding," said Fitial.

In his letter to Fitial, Buchanan said: "I am pleased to inform you that your department will receive a COPS Hiring Recovery Program (CHRP) grant award for nine officer positions. The estimated amount of federal funds

See CNMI on Next Page

HANMI chair Knight moves to DC

After more than two decades in the Northern Marianas, businesswoman and Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands chair Lynn A. Knight has announced that she and her daughters are relocating to the Washington, D.C. area.

With this announcement, Knight is also resigning several community positions including the elected chairmanship of the hotel association and an appointment by Gov. Benigno R. Fitial which began in 2008 as the private sector chair of the Commonwealth Economic Development Strategy Commission or CEDS. The hotel association will discuss the election of a new chairman in its general membership meeting today.

Knight has also been on leave as publisher of the *Saipan Tribune* and vice president of corporate affairs for Tan Holdings since Feb. 1. For the past six months, she

has been working in Washington, D.C. representing the governor in the nation's capital on federalization of immigration and other economic issues.

A past president of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, Knight has been active in the Chamber and many other community organizations since she moved to Saipan in 1986. She started up and managed the island's first full-service public relations and advertising agency, Sunset Advertising Group, Inc. for 14 years before joining Tan Holdings

as vice president of corporate affairs in 2001. She has concurrently served for the past five years as the general manager of the Century Hotel.

Knight has also been active in the Northern Marianas College Foundation, the annual Marianas March Against Cancer, the Friends of the Saipan Beach Pathway, the Strategic

Economic Development Council, and various projects and ad hoc committees of the Marianas Visitors Authority.

Knight moved to Virginia with her two daughters in February on a six-month assignment. "I want to thank Gov. Fitial and my friends in the business community for the great honor of serving the CNMI in this appointment. The road to recovery is very long, but I know that we've made a difference to helping bridge an understanding of our economy. I look forward to doing more to help the CNMI in other capacities in the future, whether as a volunteer or in pursuing new business interests that will bring us back to the region from time to time."

"My daughters were born on Saipan and we just can't say the word 'good-bye' to all our many great friends throughout the Marianas. The islands will always be 'home' in our hearts." According to Knight, the decision to stay in Washington, D.C. was a family decision. (*Saipan Tribune*)

Knight

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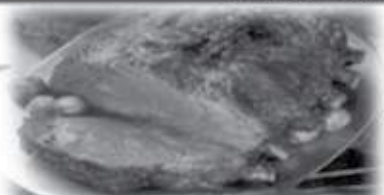
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Lack of enforcement of disabled parking law, inaction on reform bill cited

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The Senate has yet to act on a House bill that provides for higher penalties and tighter enforcement of the CNMI's disability parking law, said special assistant for disability policy and programs Thomas J. Camacho.

Camacho said the Office of Disability Policy and Programs continues to receive numerous calls from private citizens concerned with the lack of enforcement of

Public Law 8-35 or the Persons with Disabilities Parking Access Act of 1993.

On Monday, Camacho wrote a letter to Senate Committee on Judiciary, Government and Law chair Sen. Paterino S. Hocog (R-Rota), inquiring about the status of House Bill 16-8, HS1 to repeal and reenact 9 CMC Section 5657 regarding accessible parking for persons with disabilities.

H.B. 16-8, HS1 passed the House on Oct. 3, 2008, transmitted to the Senate four days later, and was reported dur-

ing the Senate's Oct. 17, 2008, regular session.

The bill, which was referred to the Senate Committee on Judiciary, Government and Law, was crafted to provide fines and penalties against public and private parking facility owners who do not conform to those accessible parking space designs or standards reserved for individuals with disabilities.

"I'm urgently seeking your immediate attention and action in moving forward this proposed amendment in the

interest of those who have been affected and frustrated due to lack of standard and illegal parking enforcement and especially to stop the illegal parking, abuses, misuses and the continuous disrespect of the law by drivers and vehicle owners affecting those who are privileged to use these reserved parking spaces," Camacho told Hocog.

The House substitute bill includes a provision imposing a civil fine of \$250 for any business or privately owned facility that fails to designate the required accessible parking spaces, until the business or privately owned facility is in full compliance.

Also proposed is a civil fine of \$250 for any person parking in a designated accessible parking space without proper authorization, which is higher than the current amount set by Public Law 8-35.

P.L. 8-35, which established an accessible parking program for persons

with disabilities, set a \$150 fine for unauthorized parking.

A 2007 study found that only \$23,100 in fines has been collected from violators since the CNMI's disability parking law was enacted in 1994.

Camacho also shared with the Senate committee some initiatives of the Office of Disability Policy and Programs with respect to P.L. 8-35, including the "Save Our Space" awareness campaign. This initiative led to the conduct of training and distribution of informational materials.

Early this year, ODPP also met with Department of Public Safety officials concerning the subject matter.

ODPP, in its 2007 study, recommends some amendments to P.L. 8-35. To be consistent with the American Disabilities Act, the CNMI law should require that at least 50 percent of all disability parking spaces be 13 feet by 18 feet. The current minimum dimensions are 12 feet by 18 feet.

Puengin Inetnon on Friday

Puengin Inetnon will be held again on July 31, 2009, at the Kagman Community Center's parking lot. The Library's Bookmobile will also be there.

Puengin Inetnon is Kagman's Fri-

day Night Market that will take place every government payday. It will begin at 4:30pm and end at 10pm.

There will vendors selling food, drinks, snacks, clothing, and crafts. Puengin Inetnon is a fam-

ily oriented event. Alcohol will be prohibited from the event. All are welcome. Come attend Puengin Inetnon for some family fun, right here in Kagman.

Interested vendors can call the Kagman Post Office at 256-POST for applications. **(PR)**

ABSENCE

From Page 2

union, agreed to terminate the defined benefits plan in favor of a more generous 401(k) pension plan. Knecht said the new plan is "mutually beneficial" to IT&E and its employees and, ultimately, the CNMI, by encouraging higher retirement savings.

"Upon distribution, eligible retirees (12), former employees or those who left the company prior to retirement and who were fully vested (76), and participating current employees (115) will receive a lump sum distribution averaging \$5,800," Knecht told Hocog.

The actual amount of the distribution is dependent on the employee's years of service and salary.

"Although we have not made a distribution, I would like to make it clear that all current retirees, essentially those who retired at age 65, continue to receive their full benefits under the defined benefit plan," Knecht added.

Work with the Legislature

In the interim and unrelated to the plan termination distribution, IT&E said it will continue to work with the Legislature by processing distributions to a number of former employees.

For instance, under the defined benefit plan, former employees with less

than \$5,000 in defined benefits at the time of separation may elect for a lump sum distribution.

The telecommunications firm also said it will review its files to determine if there are any lump sums that may be distributed to deceased family members where a death beneficiary is identified.

"Again, both of these instances are unrelated to the plan termination distribution but we are pleased to work with the Legislature in this regard," Knecht said.

The IT&E executive vice president added that any distribution should not be considered disposable income to recipients but are actual "retirement

funds" and should be treated accordingly by rolling them over into a new or existing 401(k) plan or Individual Retirement Account so that they may be available for actual retirement needs.

"To the extent that the recipients choose not to roll over such fund distributions into a suitable retirement plan, it appears that such distributions may be subject to taxes and possible penalties," Knecht added.

The House PUTC Committee earlier warned IT&E that failure to respond to request for documents within seven days from July 7 may lead to further investigation by PUTC, including a possible oversight hearing, on the issue.

CUSTOMS

From Page 1

ers and this system is scheduled to be fully functional by Aug. 1. We are the first, if not one of the first, to have an e-customs among Pacific islands including Guam," he said.

Under the system, customers will be able to pay their excise tax and other customs charges to Customs via online

instead of manual payment, thereby speeding up customs clearance.

The customs director said it will take time for importers to get accustomed to the online payment system. Customs hired the services of Pacific Electronics for the e-customs service.

Online payment will be entertained at the seaport, airport and the post office during office hours.

"But online payment after 4:30pm will be received at the airport only be-

cause it's open 24 hours," Muna said.

Manpower shortage

The e-customs, however, does not fix the manpower shortage at Customs. From 93 personnel, the division is now down to only 54 due to non-renewal of contracts and lack of replacement of personnel as a result of funding shortage.

"Right now, we're short of people. I'm requesting for 20 additional employees if possible but we understand

the government's present financial condition," said Muna, adding that the division is trying its best to live within its means.

Customs has seen a drop in revenue collection with the demise of the garment industry which pays user's fee.

"The Finance office will be the one to release data on customs receivables. But I can say that customs collection us still manageable and accountable. Everything we collect is being accounted

US

From Page 1

The senator said Ruhlman assured that the progress of the military's plans in the region are going to be shared with the CNMI leadership.

He said during the meeting, Ruhl-

man briefed the lawmakers on the Air Force's plans and what they are doing in the region.

"But they are not instrumental in the active deployment of the Marines over to Guam," Reyes said.

He said majority of the questions raised by lawmakers pertain to what is in store with the CNMI in the mo-

bilization of 8,000 Marines and their 9,000 family members from Okinawa to Guam.

Reyes said the legislators also asked as to what extent those deployment would impact the CNMI because the Commonwealth is interested about the economic side of that deployment too.

Reyes said Ruhlman assured that he

will bring the concerns to Rear Admiral Douglas Biesel, the commander of Joint Region Marianas.

The senator said Rota is very concerned about encouraging the military to use the island for rest and recreation considering that Rota passed the casino gambling initiative.

"There will be gaming there plus

for," Muna said.

Besides revenue collection, Customs also protects the border by inspecting passengers and cargo for illegal drugs, firearms and other imported items at ports of entry on Saipan, Tinian and Rota.

While no recent drug smuggling attempt has been detected by customs personnel and its drug-detector dogs or K9, the division continues to come across counterfeit luxury items and illegal imported medicines.

the fact that they have excellent golf course. Rota could be a good destination, its very peaceful," he said.

Reyes said Tinian is also asking the military's plans.

He said he is aware that there is an effort to try to reconstruct the dock on Tinian for joint use of the military and residents.

MASKED

From Page 1

of Public Safety spokesman Jason Tarkong.

Tarkong said the suspect is still at large.

If the robber gets arrested he will be

likely charged in federal court as carrying a gun in commission of a crime is a federal offense.

Tarkong said that at 5:15am police responded to a reported robbery incident at 10-21 Poker where they learned that the masked robber was carrying a handgun.

Police replayed the establishment's

video and saw a male suspect described as about 5'7" tall, skinny, 160 lbs., and wearing a black mask, black long sleeve shirt, blue jeans, and black shoes.

The robber grabbed the cashier by her hand, pointed a pistol to her head, and pulled her into the cashier's booth.

The suspect opened the cashier's drawer, grabbed the cash, and fled

the scene.

Tarkong said a security guard on duty did not witness the robbery as he was making rounds in the rear of the establishment at the time.

Police officers looked for the suspect by searching the vicinity of the poker establishment.

Police Officer Jesse Concepcion

came across \$4,000 cash scattered over a gravel road leading to a bushy trail near the poker establishment.

"Anyone having information about this crime, please call the Crime Stoppers hotline at 234-7272. Crime Stoppers pays cash rewards up to \$1,000 for information leading to an arrest," Tarkong said.

DPH

From Page 1

ed early last week—a 16-year-old local boy and a 26-year-old Japanese who recently visited the CNMI.

A probable case of swine-origin influenza A (H1N1) virus infection is defined as a person with an influenza-like illness

who is positive for influenza A but negative for H1 and H3 influenza RT-PCR.

A confirmed case of swine-origin influenza A (H1N1) virus infection is defined as a person with an ILI with laboratory confirmed swine-origin A (H1N1) infection by a real-time RT-PCR and/or viral culture.

DPH said the four new probable cases of swine flu were monitored through

the different clinics in the CNMI, but they have yet to send the samples to a laboratory in San Antonio, Texas for further evaluation.

Based on the data released by DPH Acting Secretary John Tagabuel yesterday, one of the four probable cases is between the ages of 0 and 4 and the other three are between ages 5 and 24.

One of them had been hospitalized

with influenza.

The report by the DPH Emergency Operations Center Jurisdiction Pandemic Influenza Surveillance was dated July 7, 2009

Tagabuel said that DPH has made it clear that there are two laboratory confirmed cases.

But he said DPH is anticipating that H1N1 cases will increase in the CNMI.

"Moreover DPH continues to take and send sample off island and closely monitor H1N1 or Influenza-like illness," he said.

He said DPH continues to issue guidelines to calm the public's concern by promoting good personal practices such as good hygiene and social distancing/isolation by staying home when a person is not well and has the flu.

Judge allows testimonies of mother, sister in Calvo case

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

The Superior Court has granted the government's motion to allow the testimonies of the mother and sister of an under-aged girl who was allegedly sexually abused by former Saipan Rotary Club president Patrick Mendiola Calvo.

In granting the government's motion to introduce fresh complaint evidence, Presiding Judge Robert C. Naraja ruled that the prosecution may present evidence through both the victim's sister and mother by testimony that the girl made a complaint and the circumstances surrounding the making of the complaint.

"However, neither the victim's sister nor mother may testify to 'the substance of their conversations' with the victim as such testimony violates Commonwealth Rules of Evidence 802," said Naraja in the order issued on Tuesday.

The judge said Calvo requested that a narrow limiting instruction must be given to the jury concerning this evidence.

"This court will allow a narrow limiting instruction concerning evidence that falls under the fresh complaint doctrine,

and will allow the defendant to submit an instruction for the Court to consider," Naraja said.

Fresh complaint doctrine permits "a prosecutor to introduce evidence of an alleged [sexual assault] victim's extrajudicial allegations that the crime occurred, under circumstances where they would be otherwise inadmissible under the hearsay rule."

The government charged Calvo with sexual assault in the second degree, sexual abuse of a minor in the second degree, sexual abuse of a minor in the third degree, and disturbing the peace. The defendant pleaded not guilty.

Police said Calvo allegedly sexually assaulted the then 13-year-old girl on June 11, 2008.

Assistant Attorney General Brian Gallagher moved the court to allow the victim's sister and mother to testify to the substance of their conversations with the victim, pursuant to the fresh complaint exception to the hearsay rule.

Gallagher argued that both the victim's sister and mother are people that the victim would normally turn to for sympathy, protection or advice, and therefore their testimony falls under the fresh complaint doctrine as an exception to the hearsay rule.

Defense attorney G. Anthony Long, counsel for Calvo, asserted that the fresh complaint doctrine has not been adopted in the CNMI.

Long said if the evidence is admitted, the evidence is only admissible for the nonhearsay purpose of showing a complaint was made and not for the truth of the matter asserted.

Naraja ruled that fresh complaint doctrine may be utilized as an exception to the hearsay rule in the Commonwealth.

However, the judge said, he agrees with the defense's arguments and under the standard that the court adopted that such evidence is only admissible to show that a complaint was made and the circumstances

surrounding the making of that complaint.

"Evidence concerning the

details of the statements themselves, to prove the truth of the matter asserted, will not be

admissible as it would violate Commonwealth Rules of Evidence 802," he added.

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DEQ sets Tanapag beach cleanup

The Division of Environmental Quality cleanup brigade will be picking up trash at Tanapag Social Hall in Tanapag on Aug. 1, 2009.

If you would like to volunteer your time to clean and beautify our island, meet with the group at 8am at the social hall. Volunteers will split into groups and clean north and south of Tanapag Beach until 10am, break for drinks, and then continue, if needed.

This month, outstanding brigade volunteers who participated in at least 10 monthly cleanups will receive a brigade cap and those who participated in at least three cleanups will receive a green brigade t-shirt.

The DEQ cleanup brigade began in 1996 and continues to maintain clean, healthy beaches.

For more information about volunteering, contact the DEQ office at 664-8500. (DEQ)

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

LHD Corporation dba: Night Girls

The public is invited to provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this Conditional Use application #2009-1956, Lot # 008 H 20, Chalan Kanoa

Date : July 30, 2009, Thursday

Time : 6:00 pm

Place : Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan.

Above applications may be viewed at the Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan. Comments on the projects may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may also be submitted in writing to the Zoning Office no later than 4:30 pm, July 31, 2009. Written comments may be submitted via e-mail to staff@zoning.gov.mp, via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or delivered to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, DanDan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please contact Victor Barret, Zoning Administrator, at 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & Division 3 of Title 10 CMC).

/s/ Henry S. Hofschneider, Chairman.

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SPECIAL THANKS TO:       

Ex-DD director gets 3 years probation for embezzlement

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The federal court yesterday imposed a three-year probation sentence on former Council for Developmental Disabilities Director Antonio Camacho Chong for embezzling the agency's property.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Alex R. Munson ordered Chong to submit to home confinement for six months under the direction of the U.S. Probation Office.

Munson required the defendant to pay immediately restitution in the amount of \$26,970.37.

The judge directed the defendant to pay the amount to the clerk of court for disbursement to CDD.

He also ordered Chong to pay for the cost of electronic monitoring plus \$100 in court special assessment fee and required him to complete 200 hours of community work service.

During the sentencing, Assistant U.S. Attorney Eric O'Malley moved for a sentence of 12 months in prison, to be served by home confinement, and three years of supervised release.

Chong, through counsel, argued for a lesser sentence.

Last April 14, the U.S. government charged the 49-year-old Chong with one count of embezzlement from a program

receiving federal funds.

That same day, Chong waived the indictment and entered a guilty plea.

The prosecution stated in the charging information that on April 25, 2008, Chong, being employed by CDD, embezzled

property worth at least \$5,000.

The property was provided by federal monies to the CDD that was to be used for work-related travel expenses.

Court documents did not mention specifically what property was embezzled.

Surveillance cam leads to arrest of suspect in dive shop burglary

By **NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.**
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A surveillance camera footage led to the arrest of a boat captain suspected in burglarizing the dive shop he worked for.

Police arrested suspect Dwight Lee DLG Aldan, who appeared at a bail hearing on Monday. He was represented by assistant public defender Richard Miller.

Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman imposed a \$10,000 bail on the suspect for his temporary liberty.

Wiseman set 10 percent or \$1,000 cash and the remaining \$9,000 in unsecured bond.

Aldan was accused of stealing dive shop items worth over \$2,000.

Assistant Attorney General George Hasselback appeared on behalf of the government.

The court placed the defendant under several conditions if he posts bail, including returning to court whenever required to do so and obeying all Commonwealth laws.

He must also surrender his travel documents, stay away from all seaports and airports, and shall have no direct or indirect contact with the victims and witnesses.

A preliminary hearing is set for Aug. 3 and the arraignment for Aug. 10.

Detective Christopher Leon

Guerrero stated in his affidavit that they responded to a report of burglary and theft incident at the Ocean View Hotel in Gapan at about 9:21pm on July 7.

Police then met the owner of the Wonder Sea Dive Shop, Misayo Wakasuki, at the second floor of the hotel.

Investigating police officers found the cash register open and found a \$20 bill on the floor. Police said \$30 in cash was stolen but there were no signs of forced entry.

One of the hotel employees told police he saw Aldan using the telephone at the lobby then saw him go up to the second floor.

The same hotel employee told police he found out that the suspect went to the dive shop based on the footage of the surveillance camera.

He then reported this to the owner of the dive shop.

Police said another witness saw the footage and later identified the defendant as the one who broke into the dive shop.

Other eyewitnesses said they saw the defendant walked toward the dive shop and opened the main door and then left with several items.

Leon Guerrero stated in his affidavit that he also learned that a dive instructor lost his set of keys for the main door of the dive shop when he earlier escorted a group of divers to Managaha Island.



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PUBLIC NOTICE

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY PARKING

This is to inform the general public that the Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) installed a new system for the parking facilities at the Saipan International Airport, the Commuter Terminal and the Port of Saipan. The new system dispenses a plastic card upon entry and the card is returned when exiting. The system reads the elapsed time between entry and exit and indicates the appropriate charge.

Except for the Commuter Terminal, the parking fee for the first hour is one dollar and an additional dollar for each additional hour or a fraction of an hour.

The Commuter Terminal customers will be given a grace period of 15 minutes. A fee of \$1.00 will be charged when the elapsed time between entry and exit exceeds 15 minutes for the first hour and an additional dollar for each additional hour or a fraction of an hour.

The total charge for each 24-hour period is \$10.00 for the Main Terminal, Commuter Terminal, and the Port of Saipan. For each additional hour or fraction of an hour, an additional dollar will be charged.

A customer who loses a parking card will be charged \$10.00 for the lost card and will also be charged the appropriate parking fee for the time parked. The customer with the lost parking card may be required to park on the side to allow other customers to exit first and then give time for the parking booth attendant to check the system to resolve the matter.

A customer with a valid Handicap Placard will not be charged any parking fee as long as the handicap person who was issued the placard is present in the vehicle. All customers with a valid Handicap Placard should call the CPA Accounting Office.

All parking fees are non-refundable.

If you have any questions, please contact Ms. JoyAnn DeLeon Guerrero at 237-6500.

/s/ Edward B. Mendiola
Acting Executive Director



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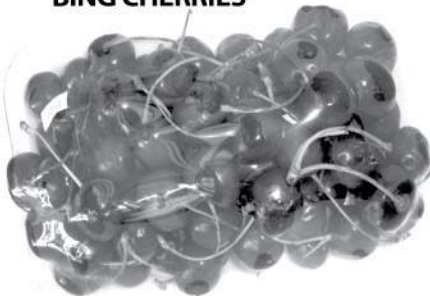


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Mayor Tudela supports suspension of Zoning Law

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Saipan Mayor Juan B. Tudela is supporting a call to suspend the new Saipan Zoning Law, saying that it was enacted without properly hearing the views and comments from the public.

"I support the position of the delegation in which there have been so many negative feedbacks from the local business community since the implementation of the Saipan Zoning Law in December 2008," Tudela told Saipan Legislative Delegation chairman Rep. Ramon Tebuteb in a letter last week.

A bill was recently submitted at the House of Representatives

that proposes a six-month suspension of the statute.

"I am aware of the negative responses from the community...because I was also informed by individuals and members of the business community about numerous issues that perhaps were not properly addressed or were not heard from a series of public hearings, media coverage, and press releases," Tudela said, adding that he strongly supports the proposed suspension until adequate review and amendments are made and presented to the leg-

islature for further review and possible approval.

Saipan Tribune learned that the Saipan Zoning Law took effect on Dec. 5, 2008, and the Zoning Office has since then processed over 1,200 applications and requests for information and issued over 200 permits and other authorizations.

One of the major highlights of the 2008 Saipan Zoning Law is the gradual phase-out of the so-called adult businesses from the Garapan area.

It can be recalled that a group of businessmen circulated last

month a petition seeking the law's suspension, saying there is no quantifiable evidence showing that the legislative findings used to justify the law's enactment have been satisfied.

The petition states that the law failed to simplify and streamline the zoning law to fit the realities of Saipan's relatively small, rural, and uncomplicated social, physical, and development environment, as well as the Zoning Board's limited administrative capabilities.

Petitioners believe that the Zoning Office also fails to issue permits in a timely manner and administer the regulations fairly.



Tudela

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

July 30, 1999

State of emergency declared

A Commonwealth-wide state of disaster emergency was declared yesterday by the government following indications of major eruptions of a volcano in Alamagan that have forced evacuation of residents and restricted travels to the island north of Saipan. Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio, in his disaster declaration, said Alamagan is unsafe for human habitation and that travels to the tiny island will only be allowed for scientific expeditions, such as monitoring of the volcanic activities there. There will be no permanent residency on Alamagan at least during the 30-day effective period of the order, which may be extended by the governor depending on the situation on the island.

Bill to regulate finance companies axed

While he acknowledged the need for government control, Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio vetoed yesterday a bill seeking to regulate finance companies, except banks, that extend consumer loans on the island due to vague provisions of the proposed law. Offered by Rep. Karl T. Reyes, the measure was the first attempt by the Commonwealth to provide for licensing and regulation of the financial sector which has increased in recent years. Reyes, who chairs the House Ways and Means Committee, said he would look into the objections of the governor before commenting on the veto, but added that he might ask legislators for an override.

July 30, 2001

Power rate hikes capped

Utility customers may be on the brink of a major windfall after the Senate passed a bill that would set a limit on how high the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation can increase its rates for electricity and water. After hurdling second and final reading at the Upper Chamber, Senate Bill 12-115 now goes to the House of Representatives for review and approval. According to Sen. Joaquin G. Adriano, the bill's proponent, the Legislature finds that the utility service rates in the Commonwealth are prohibitively high, leading to the high cost of living and doing business on island. "Although the CUC Board is authorized to establish various rate schedules for utility services, we find it necessary to place a ceiling on the rates currently in effect to alleviate the hardship among CUC customers and to spur economic activity by lowering the cost of doing business in the Commonwealth," Adriano said in his proposed measure.

PSS to assess reading ability of first graders

Public school first graders will be spending the early part of the new school year answering a Reading diagnostic test designed to assess the reading ability of local students. Education Commissioner Dr. Rita H. Inos reported to the Board of Education last week that the implementation of the Reading test is part of the PSS' accountability efforts in gauging the level of students' reading ability, starting from the most crucial learning stage. PSS devoted the past year developing the diagnostic measure with aid from experts from the Pacific Resources for Education and Learning. The tests have been designed to fit the unique needs of local students in the area of Reading.

July 30, 2002

Payroll money drying up

Government employees got their salaries last Friday but little did they know that they nearly didn't get it. Cash flow problems has put a chokehold on the government's \$7.2 million bi-weekly payroll, sending the Babauta administration scrambling to the House of Representatives yesterday afternoon for an emergency meeting to tackle possible courses of action. As a temporary measure, the government has decided to momentarily withhold the release of refund and rebate checks and the submission of payments to vendors so it could meet its payroll obligations. A Department of Finance source said that hundreds of rebate checks have already been printed but are just sitting at the Division of Treasury as they cannot be mailed out due to insufficient funds.

Few qualify for Police Academy

The Department of Public Safety is having difficulty recruiting qualified individuals who will become the next graduates of the new cycle of the Police Academy, with only 12 percent or 30 of 254 applicants meeting the minimum requirements. DPS Commissioner Edward C. Camacho admitted Friday that the Police Academy, which was supposed to start a few months back, has been moved several times due to the dismal turnout.

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

Palin's siren song

Sarah Palin's valedictory address as governor of Alaska will (we hope) be little noted nor long remembered. But its denunciation of Hollywood and Washington insiders reflects a perennial obsession by some conservatives that mainstream politicians are too eager to indulge. As Republicans regroup after the disaster of 2008, they would be wise to resist this shrill siren song.

Palin's speech Sunday was an improvement over the stream-of-consciousness performance earlier this month in which she announced that she would be stepping down. Those remarks, which sounded as if they were ghostwritten by love-struck Gov. Mark Sanford of South Carolina, included the Zen-like assertion that she didn't want to take "a quitter's way out." Her official farewell was better focused—and that's the problem.

Threaded through Palin's encomiums to Alaska and apologies for her self-aborted administration was a thesis familiar to students of this country's culture wars. Unlike those patriotic Alaskans, inhabitants of the Lower 48 number among them a fifth column that in Palin's words is "hell-bent maybe on tearing down our nation." These doomsayers peddle pessimism about the future of the nation and belittle "the great proud volunteers who sacrifice everything for country."

And where does one find these naysayers? In Washington, Hollywood and a clueless mainstream news media. Washington is the home of a "big central government" that plots the "enslavement" of citizens who keep alive a "pioneering spirit." Meanwhile, values cherished by inhabitants of what Palin once called the "real America"—such as the right to bear arms—are being undermined by liberals employing "delicate, tiny, very talented celebrity starlets." As for the media, yes, journalists are protected by the First Amendment, but they should stop "making things up."

None of these themes originated with Palin. President Nixon celebrated the "silent majority" that supported his conduct of the Vietnam War. Nixon's vice president, Spiro Agnew, attacked journalists as "nattering nabobs of negativism" and "an effete corps of impudent snobs." Ronald Reagan declared that the federal government "is not the solution to our problem, the government is our problem." The architects of George W. Bush's 2004 re-election celebrated his support among so-called values voters who turned out to vote against same-sex marriage.

But Palin—perhaps because of a paucity of policy views—has made the opposition between liberal elites and ordinary God-fearing, gun-toting, oil-drilling Americans central to her appeal. It's tempting to say that has been her downfall as a national figure. A recent Washington Post-ABC poll showed that 53 percent of Americans view Palin negatively, while 40 percent view her positively. Yet the same survey found that 70 percent of Republicans view the former GOP vice presidential nominee in a positive light. Is that because of her down-home persona or because she is seen as the victim of a liberal-media conspiracy?

Perhaps both. As Rich Lowry of the National Review wrote: "It's fashionable to opine that the culture wars are over. Palin proves that they still burn hot. Her very existence is a cultural provocation. Before she had been on the national stage five minutes—before the Katie Couric interview, before the Tina Fey parodies—she had earned the eternal enmity of the liberal elite for the affront of who she was: a working-class, pro-life woman with decidedly red-state mores. Conservatives loved her for the same reason." No doubt some snooty liberals harbor such views, but the notion that Palin's biggest liability was her

See PALIN'S on Next Page



Amazon incidents remind that Big Brother still looms

Last week, in a stunning display of public irony, Amazon.com remotely deleted digital copies of the George Orwell novels "1984" and "Animal Farm" from customers' Kindle devices after learning that the electronic publisher of these works, MobileReference, did not have the rights to them. For a couple days, observers in print and on the Web outdid themselves, noting that in "1984," government censors rewrite history by consigning offending news items to an incinerator chute known as the memory hole.

Orwell's technological vision may have been primitive, but he seems to have predicted something fundamental about the dangers of information systems. In the wake of the uproar, Amazon announced that it would no longer use its wireless capabilities to erase readers' e-books, and Amazon Chief Executive Jeff Bezos apologized.

Lesson learned, right? Maybe, but then again, maybe not. This is, after all, the second major issue involving Amazon's control of content in the past three months; in April, "a glitch" in the company's sales-ranking feature led to the inadvertent de-ranking of hundreds of gay and lesbian books.

I don't mean to suggest that these incidents are related or that they are anything other than what Amazon claims they are: mistakes made by a company staking out the brave new world of electronic bookselling.

What is this brave new world, however, and are we sure it's the one we want?

For advocates, it's a buzzing hive of interactivity in which the solitary seeker at a bricks-and-mortar bookstore is upgraded to the collective mentality of an online "community." And yet this community can't help but operate according to its own hierarchy—a fact we confront any time a book is de-ranked or electronically deleted.

Such issues have been largely overlooked in the Amazon discussion, which takes for granted that "glitches" are inevitable and self-correcting, that the market will police itself. (We've seen how well that worked on Wall Street.)

Of course, much is overlooked when it comes to Amazon, which takes our preconceptions about bookselling and publishing and turns them upside down. For those who have warned for 20 years about the homogenizing dangers of chain bookstores, Amazon is a conundrum: an independent bookstore whose ubiquity makes such distinctions obsolete.

In addition, the company has branched out beyond the traditional role of retailer, producing a piece of merchandise, the Kindle, that blurs the lines even further, functioning as both an e-book reader and a purchase portal to the store. While we're seduced by cool new technology, Amazon could be rehabbing an old structure—remember monopolies?

Meanwhile, we embrace Amazon and the Kindle with little real

By DAVID L. ULIN

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Ulin is book editor of the Times.



consideration for what it all means, as we move increasingly toward an electronic model for intellectual and literary life. Much of the talk about the digital future has to do with its inevitability, but though that may be true, it overlooks more subtle questions of engagement and control.

For Amazon, books are a business, and the more hegemony it exerts over the market, the better off it is. For the culture, though, books and information serve as a collective soul, a memory bank, something bigger than simple commerce that shouldn't be merely bought and sold.

Because of that, it's not the incidents themselves but their ramifications that are disturbing—the idea that Amazon can effectively alter the collective memory at will. The issue, in other words, isn't that Amazon has erased material from people's Kindles, or de-ranked gay and lesbian writers, but that it can.

This is the problem with the digitized canon and the electronic frontier: It's mutable to the point of being vulnerable. We are asked to trust each other's goodwill, to believe in the commons, even though we know people and institutions try to rewrite history all the time.

There's always a justification—whether it be a rights issue (as it was with the Orwell books) or a programming error—but the result is the same. The collective memory, our shared informational heritage, is compromised, and we are the poorer for it, not to mention at the mercy of the very sorts of outside forces writers like Orwell have warned against.

I'm not a Luddite. I have a Kindle (although I still prefer to read on paper), and when I bought an iPod Touch, I loaded it with books. Like many people, I now live at the intersection of technology and language, ideas, "content," which I see as a place of possibility, where we have profound new tools to move the word forward.

Still, as much as this excites me, something about its fluidity makes me wary, aware that such possibilities carry risks.

Does Amazon, as its detractors claim, want to control, or even censor, certain types of literature? As long as there's money to be made, I can't see why it would. But economics is a slippery territory, defined by self-interest rather than the public good. And that, as Amazon continues to remind us, makes for its own kind of memory hole.

EDITORIAL POLICY

The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Do you need a coach?

Seven years after the L.A. Lakers won their last NBA title, the team came together to win the 2009 NBA championship. This was not just a victory for the players, but it was a record 10th coaching title for Phil Jackson. When he coached for the Chicago Bulls for nine seasons, they made the playoffs every year, and failed to win the title only three times.

One of the reasons for the Bulls and Lakers success was the unique chemistry between Jackson and his players. Jackson has been recognized as a gifted handler of difficult players who were less than team-oriented. He has the ability to channel their skills to transform their team into a championship squad. His relationship with Michael Jordan is considered to be one of the greatest player-coach relationships in NBA history. However, Phil Jackson's real genius is his ability to integrate his role players and get more out of them than any other coach could.

Athletes have embraced the coaching concept for centuries. The affect of a good coach on the success of a sport's team is obvious, and no team would try to compete without a coach to guide their efforts. However, more businesspeople from small enterprises to large corporations are realizing that a business coach is just as critical to the success of their business team. They realize that a supportive coach will motivate them to get where they want to go more quickly and effectively by revealing the untapped opportunities that no one is taking advantage of, and encouraging them to take action. Think of a coach as a GPS in your business to help you get to your final destination, find the quickest route, and warn you about any obstructions on the way.

Effective business coaches look to change the behaviors in an organization by providing an effective game plan that encourages

change and allows performance to be tracked and measured. At the heart of this process is the ability to link each individual's values to the organization's vision, and then create a harmonious alignment that fosters a high-performance culture.

The advantages of coaching are outlined in a 2005 survey by Blessing White that states the main benefits of coaching are that it:

- Generates improvements in an individual's performance, targets, and goals (84 percent).
- Allows a fuller use of an individual's talents and potential (79 percent).
- Fosters higher organizational performance and productivity (69 percent).
- Increases openness to personal learning and development (60 percent).
- Helps identify solutions to specific work-related issues (58 percent).
- Corrects behavior and performance difficulties (33 percent).

Some of the other key benefits that come from business coaching are that it supports strategic objectives, increases team effectiveness, improves confidence and communication skills, provides a structured process that is based on continuous and measurable improvement, and creates high employee productivity and retention.

The reality is every success-oriented person needs a coach to get the maximum value from every effort they make without experiencing the many mistakes of being on their own. Having a good coach is not an expense; it is really an investment. In one study, the return on investment (ROI) from coaching senior executives was at least 5.7 times the cost (*The Manchester Review*, 2001, vol. 6). Think about it—if you spent X amount of dollars and knew you could get a 570- percent

Marriage and immigration

It was in the late '70s. My American wife, our Philippine-born daughter with a U.S. passport, our Canadian-born daughter with a Canadian passport, and I, with my green card and Philippine passport, were living in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada, as part of the global staff of an institute headquartered in Chicago.

Periodically called to annual meetings, my family would pack up early summer to head for the city by lake Michigan along the Illini River. In '76, we took the scenic route through North Dakota. At the border, with three sets of passports, the INS officer asked: "You came to this country as a foreign student. Did you marry your wife so that you can stay in the country?"

I said, "Yes!" without batting an eye. I do not know whether the officer just wanted to get a rise on me by his provocative question, but I had gotten used to being similarly asked in other locations that I came up with the pat answer.

Besides, it was not all together an inaccurate answer. After all, marriage was, and still is, a qualifying means to meet immigration rules. The peopling of the United States is replete of incidences where massive drives to marry off its predominantly male population were frequently used to bring order and stability in the Wild, Wild West. "Mail order bride" is still a term used even with the accelerated means the Internet has come to provide. Of course, this was only true of the population of northern European descent. Mediterranean olive skin and oil slicked-hair variety was looked down upon!

Only when JFK extended the family unification principle to Asians—Chinese, Japanese, Koreans, and Filipinos—recruited earlier to work in plantations and the railroad that the ranks of Asian immigrants began to swell.

The "yellow fever" threat was foisted by certain sectors of lily-white society to curtail Chinese presence in the country. The concentration camp incarceration during WWII for people of Nippon descent is a blemish to our national soul. History had not been unkind, however, as the Civil Rights movement would later recognize with gratitude Justice Earl Warren's support of civil rights issues while presiding over the U.S. Supreme Court, to make up, it is suspected, for his Japanese incarceration ruling in the '40s.

In response to the latest contribution of William McCue, our inveterate letter writer from Florida, whose take on marriage as a tool of immigration is more akin to the "whitebread" perspective he does not wish to be identified with, we nevertheless find too disturbingly familiar to racists' diatribe his comment on preferential treatment of immigrants on hiring, promotions, college admissions, and being an economic drain on the nation. That he who would not hesitate to call a union as "sham" in spite of the factual details publicly shared is a serious flaw in judgment. We do thank him for pointing to the need for legal clarity on "marriage" even before we get to this side of the border of our compassion.

For those unfamiliar with the specific reference to the "sham marriage" in the above paragraph, here's a recap of our previous narrative. A retired Caucasian Yankee meets a middle-aged Chinese mother through mutual friends, and leads to "I dos" three months later in 2005 in *Dong Bei* China. Groom gets sick a month later and

returns to NYC. He petitions his new bride and her son to immigrate to the city by the Hudson.

He returns to *Dong Bei* the latter part of the year only to be incapacitated again after two months. He tells wife to apply for a non-immigrant visa (NIV). It was denied. Pending immigrant visa petition remained to be adjudicated. Mother and son are interviewed in Guangzhou a year later. Hopeful, they prepared to join their Yankee. Consulate decides that paperwork was insufficient to make a determination so duo wait until additional data satisfies requirements.

Ten months later, the immigrant petition was denied. Yankee decides to meet wife in the CNMI early 2009, a U.S. territory. Wife "buys" an expensive 30-day visa to the Commonwealth. Husband fails two attempts to travel. This writer, having dealt with CNMI immigration through the United Methodist Church, took up the cause, traveled to NYC to accompany husband only to be faced by the stark reality that it was unconscionable to bring him to health care-challenged CNMI.

Having previously accompanied one who was allowed to travel on condition that travel is done with a specifically named person officially stamped on passport, I made a similar plea to the consulate for the same privileged. I would accompany spouse to NYC when attending meetings as a member of an international board and bring her back within 60 days. No such guarantee is, however, recognized by the consulate. In fact, they are quite specific in letting everyone know that visa applicants are presumed to be immigrants until they prove otherwise.

Application for NIV in June was denied. The sick husband did not issue an invitation, the wife was told. A July application that had all the requisite papers, even with the appearance at the consulate of the NYC couple (husband the president of a CPA company) who introduced the couple to begin with, and a compelling case for the spouse's return now that husband is severely incapacitated, was also denied. The consulate's reason: they prefer that husband petitions again for the standard immigrant visa. The husband's deteriorated health, wheel-chaired and hospital-confined, made his plea to the U.S. Consulate ominous: "It would be a tragedy if my wife is finally granted a visa to see me when I am dead."

In the CNMI, a young man just turned 18 goes to university and decides to marry a 40-ish woman so she can remain gainfully employed, with his parent's consent. She provides school funds and "family happiness" tutorials when he comes home. They are at peace with the arrangement. Another woman marries an American merchant marine who supports her while at sea leaves her widowed after ten years. He did not apply for an immigrant visa for the spouse so she remained an 'immediate relative,' an immigration category uniquely operative in the CNMI. She ironically discovered that in death, her husband finally got her qualified for a green card!

Come November, the IR category will no longer apply, and as we know from recent cases of adjudicated so-called fake marriages, there will be many unhappy de-IRs. An exploitative and abusive system spawned its own abuses, and part of Cinta Kaipat's difficulties in getting the numbers on labor and immigration stem not

By RIK and JANEL VILLEGAS

Special to the Saipan Tribune

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return on your money, would you want to invest in yourself?

Here are five characteristics to look for in a coach: 1) The ability to listen and understand your goals and vision; 2) Committing your goals to specific deadlines and creating a sense of urgency to reach them; 3) formulating a step-by-step game plan that lets you understand exactly what needs to happen to envision your future; 4) showing the consequences of not following through on your goals and commitments; and 5) holding you accountable by evaluating your progress against your goals and vision and holding you to an agreed upon performance standard.

Where would world-class athletes like Michael Jordan and Kobe Bryant be without Phil Jackson as their coach? Where could you be if you had a coach to help you develop your game plan and then hold you accountable to achieve goals and follow through on the activities that will help you become more successful? This is especially critical when the obstacles are overbearing and you feel like quitting. A good coach will find a way to keep you on track. So do you need a coach? The real question should be: "Do you want to push past your limitations and become more successful?"

By JAIME VERGARA

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Vergara is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune's Opinion Section.



only on the inadequacy of census services but also in extraordinary practices of malfeasance in CNMI offices that regulate the issuance of licenses and permits. The names of prominent figures I have seen as sponsors to "bought" visas leads me to believe that the practice is neither unintentional nor peripheral. The alleged brazenness of the Rydlyme case is demonstrative of these practices.

In '84, after being told for the nth time by detaining INS officers that "a person of Philippine descent who qualifies to be a citizen but does not take advantage of it, is suspect," I finally pledge my allegiance in Guam. There was an added incentive of finally receiving full American remuneration in a federally-funded project I was involved in elsewhere. The tyranny of the economic reigns!

A colleague who was denied NIV in many offices in Europe, South America, and Asia because he qualified to be an immigrant, has yet to raise his hands up though he has been a U.S. government employee for two decades. Another who practiced medicine in the Midwest, married to a U.S. Navy vet, refuses the Stars-and-Stripes wrap for the "indignities" she suffered under INS insensitivities.

Marriage in immigration cases is double-edged. We think William tends to show his sentiments before his legal acumen. Unfortunately, many INS officers seem to do likewise.

PALIN'S

From Page 10

personal uprightness is loopy.

Even if Palin recedes as a national figure, other Republicans will be advised to capitalize on the politics of cultural resentment she practiced in her folksy style. That occurred in 2007 when presidential hopeful and erstwhile moderate Mitt Romney told the conservative Values Voters Summit that same-sex marriage would exacerbate teenage pregnancy, drug use and crime by undermining the traditional family. Palin's poll numbers may be dropping, but ratings are up for Fox TV's Bill O'Reilly, a self-described culture warrior who inveighs against a "secular-progressive movement that wants to change America dramatically (and) mold it in the image of Western Europe."






Palin may or may not be finished as a political force, but Palinism lives on. Will that be a problem for a Republican Party seeking to move beyond its conservative base? You betcha.

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Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
				
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms. South winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers. South winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°

Micronesia		
Guam and Rota	Showers	▲86 ▼77
Palau	Rain	▲85 ▼78
Yap	Rain	▲86 ▼77
Chuuk	Showers	▲88 ▼76
Pohnpei	Showers	▲86 ▼76
Kosrae	Rain	▲87 ▼80
Majuro	Showers	▲86 ▼79

Around The Globe		
Auckland	Showers	▲56 ▼47
Beijing	Partly Sunny	▲90 ▼75
Hong Kong	Showers	▲90 ▼82
Honolulu	Showers	▲84 ▼76
London	Showers	▲73 ▼52
Los Angeles	Cloudy	▲80 ▼66
Manila	Rain	▲87 ▼78
Melbourne	Showers	▲60 ▼47
Miami	Thundershowers	▲91 ▼81
New York	Cloudy	▲91 ▼72
Osaka	Rain	▲87 ▼74
Paris	Partly Sunny	▲76 ▼56
Pusan	Mostly Sunny	▲83 ▼67
Rome	Sunny	▲93 ▼69
Salem	Hot	▲94 ▼55
San Francisco	Cloudy	▲67 ▼56
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	▲88 ▼70
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	▲89 ▼79
Washington, DC	Cloudy	▲89 ▼75

Tides		
Saipan Harbor		
1:02 AM Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
8:49 AM Today	Low Tide:	0.1 Feet
4:15 PM Today	High Tide:	1.4 Feet
8:20 PM Today	Low Tide:	1.2 Feet



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, WEDNESDAY, JULY 29, 2009
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A monsoon trough extends southeastward from 18N130E through a broad circulation centered southwest of Guam near 12N141E to end west of the Marshall Islands at EQ166E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are confined primarily to the south of the circulation and monsoon trough between 14N and 5N from 130E to 138E within 250 miles of a line from 6N138E to 153E including Chuuk and southwest of Pohnpei and Kosrae within 125 miles of a line from 7N157E to 1N164E. Convergence northeast of the monsoon trough is allowing for scattered showers and a few thunderstorms within 150 miles of a line from 14N154E to 10N162E. Trade wind convergence over the Marshall Islands in conjunction with an upper-level trough stretching from 25N180 to 7N170E is generating scattered showers within 225 miles of a line from 3N166E to 6N180. A surface trough south of Minami Torishima runs from 23N148E to 23N156E. Scattered showers are found within 200 miles of a line from 25N150E to 19N163E.

Sunrise/Sunset		
Today	5:59 AM	6:48 PM
Friday	5:59 AM	6:48 PM
Saturday	5:59 AM	6:47 PM
Sunday	6:00 AM	6:47 PM
Monday	6:00 AM	6:46 PM

Moonrise/Moonset		
Today	1:22 PM	12:04 AM
Friday	2:16 PM	12:50 AM
Saturday	3:09 PM	1:39 AM
Sunday	4:00 PM	2:29 AM
Monday	4:47 PM	3:21 AM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JULY 21, 2009

DEPARTURES	ARRIVALS
SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP) C09597 11:50am 12:25pm 1, 7	ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN C09598 3:15am 3:50am 5, 6 C09312 1:20pm 1:55pm 6
ROTA (ROP)-GUAM C09597 12:50pm 1:20pm 1, 7	GUAM-ROTA (ROP) C09598 2:10am 2:40am 5, 6 C09312 12:10pm 12:40pm 6
SAIPAN-GUAM C09317 4:20am 5:10am Daily C09313 8:30am 9:20am Daily C09597 11:50am 1:20pm 1, 7 via ROP C09601 12:30pm 1:20pm 4, 5 C09603 3:30pm 4:20pm Daily C09605 6:30pm 7:20pm Daily C09599 9:30pm 10:20pm Daily	GUAM-SAIPAN C09598 2:10am 3:50am 5, 6 via ROP C09316 2:20am 3:10am 1, 2, 3, 4, 7 C09596 7:00am 7:50am Daily C09600 10:20am 11:10am 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7 C09312 12:10pm 1:55pm 6 via ROP C09602 2:00pm 2:50pm 1, 4, 5, 7 C09604 5:00pm 5:50pm Daily C09606 8:00pm 8:50pm Daily
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT) C0941 5:30am 8:05am Daily NW99 6:05am 8:40am Daily NW78 9:00am 2:05pm Daily via NGO NW75 3:50pm 6:25pm Daily C0943 5:25pm 8:00pm Daily	NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN C0942 9:25am 1:55pm Daily NW76 10:00am 2:35pm Daily NW77 6:35pm 1:40am+1 Daily via NGO NW100 8:45pm 1:20am+1 Daily C0944 9:00pm 1:30am+1 Daily
SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX) OZ119 4:00am 6:40am 1, 3, 4, 6	OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN OZ120 9:55pm 2:20am+1 2, 3, 5, 7
SAIPAN-NAGOYA (NGO) NW78 9:00am 11:40am Daily	NAGOYA (NGO)-SAIPAN NW77 9:10pm 1:40am+1 Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS) OZ608 3:20am 6:50am 1, 4, 5, 7	BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN OZ607 9:00pm 2:20am+1 3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN) OZ604 2:20am 6:00am 1 OZ604 2:50am 6:30am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 OZ119 4:00am 11:20am 1, 3, 4, 6 via KIX OZ606 3:30pm 7:00pm 2, 4, 6, 7	SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN OZ605 9:00am 2:30pm 2, 4, 6, 7 OZ120 7:10pm 2:20am+1 2, 3, 5, 7 via KIX OZ603 7:40pm 1:10am+1 7 OZ603 8:10pm 1:40am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG) FM844 2:50am 5:40am 2, 6	SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN FM843 7:15pm 1:50am+1 1, 5
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN) CZ3008 3:30am 6:40am 2, 6	GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN CZ3007 7:30pm 2:40am+1 1, 5
SAIPAN-MANILA OZ604/701 2:20am 11:25am 1 via ICN OZ604/703 2:50am 11:25am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN C09603/933 3:30pm 8:40pm Daily via GUM C09599/PR111 9:30pm 7:45am+1 1, 2, 4, 6, 7 via GUM	MANILA-SAIPAN OZ702/603 12:45pm 1:10am+1 7 via ICN OZ702/603 12:45pm 1:40am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN PR110/C09596 10:00pm 7:50am+1 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM C0934/9596 10:55pm 7:50am+1 Daily via GUM OZ704/605 11:50pm 2:30pm+1 2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
SAIPAN-HONG KONG OZ604/721 2:20am 11:45am 1 via ICN OZ604/721 2:50am 11:45am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	HONG KONG-SAIPAN OZ724/605 12:30am 2:30pm 2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN OZ722/603 1:15pm 1:10am+1 7 via ICN OZ722/603 1:15pm 1:40am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; NW: Northwest; OZ: Asiana
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123*	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125*	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

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- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
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- BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

■ CAMPUS BULLETIN Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

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- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.



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- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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Senate OKs resolution supporting Anthony Babauta's nomination

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Senate has passed a resolution that throws support to President Barack Obama's nomination of Guam resident Anthony Marion Babauta as Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas of the

Department of the Interior.

All six senators present—Senate President Pete Reyes and Sens. Felix Mendiola, Paul Manglona, Paterno Hocog, Joseph Mendiola, and Luis Crisostimo—approved the Senate resolution during Monday's session.

Senator Reyes introduced

the resolution. The senators approved the resolution without further discussing it.

Reyes stated in the resolution that Babauta was instrumental in the passage of legislation giving the people of the NMI a voice in the U.S. Congress.

Reyes said Babauta also

helped shape legislation that would convey submerged lands to the CNMI.

"Mr. Babauta's appointment as Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Insular Affairs is essential to the relationship between the United States and the insular and outlying areas because of his long established expertise with island issues and relationships with island leaders," the Senate president said.

He said prior to Babauta's appointment, the position was at a lower level that of Deputy Assistant Secretary for Insular Affairs.

"President Obama's reestablishment of this position at the

Assistant Secretary level for the first time since the Clinton Administration demonstrates

a renewed focus and commitment to attend to the needs of the U.S. insular areas at the highest levels in government," Reyes said.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, through Press Secretary Charles Reyes Jr., earlier extended his congratulations to Babauta, who previously worked on the U.S. House's Natural Resources Committee as staff director for the Subcommittee on Insular Affairs.

Babauta is currently a senior advisor to Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar.



Babauta

In his congressional position, Babauta advised the full Natural Resources Committee on policies affecting the U.S. territories of Guam, American Samoa, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, and the CNMI as well as the Freely Associated States of the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau.

Babauta was reportedly instrumental in advancing the renegotiated compact with the Republic of the Marshall Islands and the FSM, the Guam war claims legislation, and the political advancement of Puerto Rico.

Babauta also oversaw the subcommittee's jurisdiction and responsibilities toward the Department of the Interior.

Palms Resort's Summer Bash enjoys big turnout



NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.

Kids enjoy the pool during last Saturday's Summer Bash at the Palms Resort Saipan.

By **NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.**
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

About 200 kids and their parents joined Palms Resort Saipan's Summer Bash held at the San Roque landmark's poolside.

Aside from the fun activities under the sun, patrons also availed of the free entrance and partook of the affordable food and drinks.

Palms Resort marketing and communications executive Valerie Camacho said that although last year's event was bigger, last weekend's Summer Bash still had a big turnout—especially if you factor in the tough economic times.

Like last year, the hotel is planning to hold another one in August with a back-to-school theme.

Attorney Jack Torres and his wife brought with them their five kids after also enjoying the event last year.

"This is great for the family. This just shows how the hotel supports the local community,"

he said

Charlotte Camacho, acting principal of nearby Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School, said that the Summer Bash is a great way to enjoy time with the family.

"It's good to bring the family and enjoy this chance to be together," she said.

She brought her two girls and two boys—Elizabeth Camacho, 6, Bradley Camacho, 8, Zino Boy Guerrero, 9, and Irelma Guerrero, 3, to the event.

"I like to swim," says Elizabeth as she enjoyed her ice cream.

Later in the afternoon, cousins Zino Boy and Bradley joined the water balloon activity and won a gift certificate.

Camacho said the community needs more activities like this because it brings local families closer together.

"I see a lot of parents of our students here. It's good for all of us," she said.

Bobbie Babauta came with eight children, the youngest of which was a year old.

"They're enjoying the fun," she said.

Mae Alegre, who works at another hotel, said she brought her two kids at the Summer Bash.

Participants said the food and drinks were excellent and were very affordable.

Hotel staff at Isa Bar said \$3 shakes like cookies and cream, mocha java, chocoholic, and berry strawberry were big hits, especially for the children.

Other specialties in the menu were tropical chili, buko pandan, tango mango, Saipan saibok, ube doobi, kuduko nut, nelon mania, honey don't, pinacolada, and banana berry.

The set bento was priced at only \$5 that included chicken barbecue, coleslaw, and iced tea. Beer was also served at only \$2.

Hotel sales representative Minako Kayagaki said the Summer Bash campaign is the hotel's way of reaching out to the local community.

She said they want to bring Palms Resort closer to local residents and not just to tourists.

Red flag raised at Unai Dankulo

The Division of Environmental Quality has raised a red flag at Unai Dankulo and advises the public not to fish or swim within 300 feet of these locations for the next 48 hours or until otherwise notified.

The agency said samples collected from the location contained excessive concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria (enterococci) that exceeded the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards.

These bacteria can indicate the presence of human and ani-

mal waste in the water. However, studies have shown that storm water runoff in tropical environments may also contain these bacteria from the natural environment, which may not be directly associated with public health concerns.

DEQ analyzes water samples collected from Saipan's east and south recreational beaches this week.

The agency analyzes samples of marine recreational and storm

drainage water from 38 locations on Saipan's coast. Marine Water Reports are also provided at www.deq.gov.mp and www.cnmicoralreef.net.

Interested individuals and organizations can also receive email notifications of the weekly marine water quality reports. To do so, send an email to environment@deq.gov.mp.

DEQ welcomes all inquiries as to the quality of the beach water. The public is encouraged to contact DEQ at 664-8500 with any questions concerning this matter. (DEQ)

Water outage in Lower and Upper Dandan

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. announces a water outage scheduled in Dandan areas this Saturday and Sunday.

Affected customers are those residing along Dandan Road, from Dandan Elementary School, down to the intersection on lower Flame Tree Road, and north on Tun Herman Pan Road, into Exploring Drive, on Saturday, Aug. 1, 2009 from 7:30am to 6:30pm.

Customers along these areas should also expect lower water pressure on Sunday, Aug. 2.

The CUC Water Division Distribution Maintenance crew

is scheduled to work on the Dandan Reservoir to seal all holes and openings, inspect, clean and disinfect the strong tank. This required work is necessary to protect treated stored water and provide improved overall water quality for public consumption. This work enables Water Division to comply with the Stipulated Order concerning Drinking Water Operations and Maintenance in correcting major sanitary deficiencies cited during storage tanks inspections. Water service will be restored to affected customers as soon as the work is completed.

Residents are encouraged to practice strict water conservation and to teach children and household workers to save water, especially during this period. Rainwater catchment systems, water tanks should be cleaned and float valves installed or replaced to ensure that water does not overflow from any tanks.

For more information, contact Bruce Megarr, Deputy Director for Water & Wastewater Operations, at 235-7025 through 235-7032 ext. 147 or Mariano Iglecias, Water & Wastewater Operations Manager at ext. 155. (PR)



TEENS IN MOTION

The CNMI Youth Congress is inviting all YOUTH between the ages of 14 – 20 to its 7th Annual Youth Summit on July 31, 2009 at the Multi Purpose Center.

AGENDA:

Registration: 7:30 – 8:00 am

Morning Session: 8:00 – 12:00pm

Topics: Substance Abuse
Teen Pregnancy, HIV/STDS/AIDS
Healthy Eating Habits
CHALLENGE MASTERS

Morning Session is limited to the FIRST 150 REGISTERED PARTICIPANTS.

Afternoon Session: 1:00pm – 4:00pm

Gubernatorial Candidates Forum

ARTICLE XII Presentation

Youth Congress Presentation

Afternoon Session is OPEN to ALL YOUTH

Registration is ongoing at the Office of the CNMI Youth Congress located at the Honorable Jesus P. Mafnas Memorial Building (Legislature) in Capitol Hill. Office hours are Monday thru Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. For more information, call 664-8845 or email to youthcongress@cnmileg.gov.mp.

Join US Tackle Youth Issues and work towards RESOLVING the Issues TOGETHER as ONE YOUTH, ONE HEART, and ONE COMMUNITY.

RISE UP! SPEAK OUT! ACT to resolve our CHALLENGES!

Regional agencies combine forces to boost support for gender equality

NOUMEA, New Caledonia—Regional gender and development specialists said Pacific governments and regional organizations must strengthen efforts to ensure that development benefits men and women equally.

Participants at the 2nd Annual Pacific Gender and Development Partners Meeting held in Nadi, Fiji, in early July agreed that gender equality is not being adequately prioritized in the Pacific region despite long-standing commitments.

In a follow-up to discussions at the inaugural Gender and Development Partners Meeting in August last year, the principal focus of this year's gathering was the Pacific Regional Gen-

der and Development Partners Cooperation Framework.

The framework, spearheaded by the Secretariat of the Pacific Community, is a mechanism for enhancing agency coordination and collaboration. It encourages partners to work more closely together in supporting national governments and to identify areas or gaps that need greater attention and resources.

The framework provides a matrix of the gender mandates of development partners, and charts current and ongoing gender activities linked to regional frameworks such as the revised 2004 Pacific Platform for Action on the Advancement of Women and Gender Equality and The

Pacific Plan.

Treva Braun, SPC's Human Development Adviser (Gender Equality), said "Achieving international commitments to aid effectiveness requires regional development and donor partners to ramp up their internal systems for gender responsiveness and develop comprehensive systems for working together. It also means having specific and appropriate domestic and overseas aid budgets in place."

Meeting participants agreed that regional agencies need to develop systems for collaboration, such as a system for tracking funds allocated to gender-specific activities and ensuring gender analysis is done across

all sectoral work programs.

According to a 2008 study commissioned by SPC, on average less than one percent of domestic resources is being allocated to achieving gender equality in the region despite the immense benefits it could bring for individuals, communities and nations. Large differentials between women's and men's access to resources, higher education, and economic and political participation, as well as widespread violence against women, mean that whole societies and economies are severely handicapped in achieving economic and development goals.

The low priority still being accorded to gender equality

in regional organizations was evident in various discussions at the meeting. A status update on the gender strategy of the Council of Regional Organizations of the Pacific (CROP) confirmed that despite commitments to gender mainstreaming across the 10 CROP agencies, only two—SPC and the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat—have dedicated gender staff.

None of the agencies have systematic mechanisms or sufficient staffing in place to ensure that donor funded development work is meeting the differing needs and circumstances of women and men in the region.

An initiative from last year's meeting to develop a proposal for setting up a dedicated Gender Studies programme is underway at the University of the South Pacific (USP)—one of the CROP agencies—but progress is slow due to low prioritization and inadequate resources.

Development partners agreed that, in all cases, gender issues need to be more firmly planted on high-level agendas.

In one positive development, the agenda of the next Forum Leaders Meeting includes both gender-based violence and women's political participation.

The meeting will take place in August 2009.

Other key areas of collaboration discussed at the meeting included the strengthening and sharing of a regional database of gender experts hosted by the UNDP Pacific Centre; an SPC-led gender mainstreaming capacity stocktake and strengthening initiative being undertaken in Pacific Islands countries and territories; and more support for Pacific countries to participate in the 15-year review of the Beijing Platform for Action (a global agenda for advancing gender equality that was agreed to at the Fourth World Conference on Women in 1995).

Participants at the meeting included representatives from PIFS, United Nations agencies, the Commonwealth Local Government Forum Pacific Project, the Pacific Islands Applied Geoscience Commission, USP, the World Bank Group's International Finance Corporation and SPC. Donor agencies present were AusAID, NZAID and the Asian Development Bank.

For more information, contact Treva (Téa) Braun, SPC Human Development Adviser (Gender Equality), 687 26 01 91 or e-mail teab@spc.int. (PR)



COMMUNICATION IN THE WORKPLACE

Carolyn Hosono of the Northern Marianas College's Community Development Institute, standing, explains to participants in the Summer Youth Employment & Training Program the different forms of communication during a recent "Communication in the Workplace" workshop. The workshop was conducted by CDI, a program under the College's Division of Community Programs and Services, as part of a series of work readiness workshops required by the Workforce Investment Agency (WIA). The workshops were designed to help WIA participants gain knowledge, and develop skills, attitudes and confidence that will help them become successful, effective workers.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Fee waivers for Aug. 6 NMC information session participants

Individuals who will participate in the Northern Marianas College's free all-day information session will qualify to receive fee waivers for the upcoming Fall 2009 semester—a savings of about \$75.

The all-day event will take place on Thursday, Aug. 6, 2009, at the NMC Student Center in Building J at the As Terlaje campus. Individuals can choose to attend the information session anytime between 9am and 7pm.

Those interested in furthering their education and advancing their professional careers are encouraged to attend this event to meet and speak with faculty and staff from the College's different degree and certificate programs. Current students will also be sharing their experiences at NMC.

Counseling, financial aid, admissions, and other NMC staff will also be on hand to answer questions and to assist in the admissions and financial

aid process.

NMC offers several degree and certificate programs, including a bachelor of science degree in elementary education, associate degrees in business, liberal arts, nursing, natural resource management, criminal justice, hospitality management, and more. Moreover, it offers short-term certificate programs in different vocational, academic, and professional areas.

The free all-day information

session is open to everyone, including high school students and graduates, and their parents, government and private sector employees, international students, and members of the general public who are interested in learning more about the programs at NMC.

For more information, contact the Office of Admissions and Records at 234-5498 ext. 1528, or log on to www.nmcnet.edu. (PR)

'Blame it on the Cha Cha' fundraiser set for August

Do you want to spend an evening listening to local music, have the chance to win a cash prize, and help support important educational programs and initiatives?

If the answer is yes, then you'd better not miss the NMI Council for the Humanities' "Blame it on the Cha Cha" Summer Fundraiser to be held at the Saipan World Resort Jungle Stage on Aug. 28.

This event will feature back-to-back-to-back jams by a trio of talented local bands including Oloomwaay, Parker and Latte Vibes, and a Cha Cha contest for dancing enthusiasts. Contest winners will receive cash prizes.

The music starts at 5:30pm and won't stop until the bands pull their plugs at 10:30pm. Door prizes will be given out

throughout the evening.


Tickets are \$10 per person and come with a complimentary drink courtesy of Marianas Pacific Distributor, Inc. This council event is being planned and coordinated by the Taro Leaf Group.

Tickets will be available for purchase next week at the Humanities Council Office in Dandan and other designated


places to be announced soon.

With the intention of making this summer fundraiser accessible and affordable for local residents, the council is focusing its fundraising efforts on securing business sponsorships through the CNMI's ETC program.

Business organizations that are interested to participate are invited to contact council staff members at 235-4785. (PR)



HAPPY 18th BIRTHDAY
Happy 18th birthday Ben-G Yorormad. Best wishes and we hope you have a blast! From your family and friends, especially Mom. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



HAPPY 1st BIRTHDAY
Happy 1st birthday Rayanna Barbara Torres Diaz! From Grandma Bobbie, Uncle Eric, Auntie Audrey, and the Torres and Diaz families. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Business

AP source: Microsoft, Yahoo near Web search agreement

SEATTLE (AP)—Microsoft Corp. appears to have finally persuaded Yahoo Inc. that together they would have a better chance of mounting a meaningful challenge to Google Inc.'s dominance of online advertising.

Details of a long-rumored Microsoft-Yahoo alliance were expected to be announced Wednesday, a person with knowledge of the talks told The Associated Press. This person spoke Tuesday night on condition of anonymity, confirming earlier reports, because the deal was not yet final.

The deal does not appear to call for Microsoft to pay Yahoo in advance, which could disappoint its investors. Yahoo Chief Executive Carol Bartz had said she would join forces with Microsoft only for "boatloads of money."

Instead, the companies would share revenue generated by search ads on their Web sites. Yahoo would use Microsoft's

search engine, Bing, and it is likely—though not certain—that a "powered by Bing" message will appear on Yahoo's highly trafficked pages, according to the person who described the talks to the AP.

The companies would also use Microsoft's advertising technology to deliver appropriate ads alongside search results, while Yahoo would handle the ad sales and customer service.

The person with knowledge of the talks said it is not clear whether the final deal will also cover sales of billboard-style "display" ads, or what will happen to Microsoft's own ad sales team.

Microsoft, the world's largest software maker, has been courting Yahoo for several years in hopes of expanding its share of the online search market.

After being repeatedly rebuffed, Microsoft launched an unsolicited bid to buy Yahoo in its entirety. With co-founder

Jerry Yang at the helm, Yahoo put up such staunch resistance that Microsoft withdrew its last offer of \$47.5 billion, or \$33 per share, nearly 15 months ago.

Yahoo shares have never gotten close to that level again, and the company's market value was around \$24 billion this week.

Microsoft is counting on Yahoo's search engine, which ranks No. 2 with a worldwide market share of 8 percent, to pose a more formidable challenge to Google, which holds 67 percent of the global audience, according to the most recent data from research firm comScore Inc. In the United States, Google's share is 65 percent, compared with roughly 20 percent for Yahoo.

Despite spending billions to upgrade its search engine, Microsoft still held just a 3 percent share worldwide and 8 percent in the U.S. in the most recent comScore tally.

BoH posts net income of \$31M in 2Q

Bank of Hawaii Corporation recently reported diluted earnings per share of \$0.65 for the second quarter of 2009, down from diluted earnings per share of \$1.00 the same quarter last year.

Net income for the second quarter for 2009 was \$31 million compared to net income of \$43.3 million in the second quarter of 2008. Results for the second quarter of 2009 included FDIC insurance expense of \$9.0 million compared with \$0.2 million in the same quarter last year. The return of average assets for the second quarter of 2009 was 1.06 percent, compared to 1.85 percent during the same quarter last year. The return on average assets for the second quarter last year. The return on average

equity for the second quarter of 2009 was 14.49 percent compared to 24.82 percent for the second quarter of 2008.

During the quarter, the company sold a loan made to a major mall owner, restructured a leveraged lease that involved a bankrupt automobile manufacturer, and wrote down the carrying value of a non-relationship syndicated sold. The return on average equity for the second quarter of 2009 was 14.49 percent compared to 24.82 percent for the second quarter of 2008.

Average deposits increased \$471 million during the second quarter of 2009. Shareholders' equity increased \$12 million to \$846 million at June 30, 2009.

The allowance for loan and lease losses increased \$3 million during the second quarter of 2009 and currently represents 2.23 percent of outstanding loans and leases.

"We continued to pursue our near-term strategies of maintaining strong liquidity, reserves, and capital during the second quarter of 2009," said Allan R. Landon, Chairman and CEO. "Our profitability during the second quarter was helped by increased net interest income. The company's results included an industry-wide FDIC assessment and losses from the resolution of three significant credits. Bank of Hawaii has a strong balance sheet and is well prepared." **(BoH)**

BUSINESS BRIEFS

SEC files complaint against Phoenix company

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The Securities and Exchange Commission has charged four people and a Phoenix-based company with securities fraud for orchestrating a mortgage lending scam that raised nearly \$200 million from investors. The civil complaint filed in Phoenix by Los Angeles agents Tuesday accuses Radical Bunny LLC of making false and misleading statements to hundreds of people about the safety and performance of the investments. The money was pooled to another Phoenix company that dealt in short-term loans to real estate developers. The company was able to attract investors through word of mouth between their friends and relatives.

Geithner: US to address deficits after recovery

WASHINGTON (AP)—Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner says he has reassured China that the United States will take steps to address rising budget deficits once the economic recovery is firmly in place. China has huge investments in the United States and has worried it could be undermined by U.S. budget deficits. Geithner says the Obama administration plans to reverse the spending of hundreds of billions of dollars devoted to stimulating the economy and propping up a teetering financial system. Geithner spoke at a news conference Tuesday capping two-days of high-level talks between Chinese envoys and U.S. officials.

Victims' lawyer: 'Candid' Madoff explained fraud

NEW YORK (AP)—A lawyer for victims of Bernard Madoff's Ponzi scheme says the financier told him during a 4 1/2-hour prison interview plenty of details about the fraud, including how it took place and how securities regulators missed catching him. The San Francisco lawyer, Joseph Cotchett, said he planned to use what he learned Tuesday to add defendants to a lawsuit to be filed in Manhattan this week on behalf of investors harmed by the multibillion-dollar scam. "It was an extraordinary visit," Cotchett said. "He was very candid, very open, and answered every one of our questions."

Commonwealth I Sankattan Siha Na Islas Mariana Ofisinan I Gubietno Dipattamenton I Tano' Pupbliku

Priniponen Atkilon Tanu Publiku

Notisia ginen i Depattamienton Tanu Publiku: Guaha priniponen atkilon tanu publiku espesifikamente Tanu Numeru 076 D 15, poku mas o' menus 3,000 metru kuatdrao minidoñña gi katan estatuan Matsue giya Garapan. I mapa yan todo infotmasion pot este na tanu gaige gi depattamienton tanu giya Dandan, segundu bibi-enda gi Joeten Dandan Building.

I para u inatila este na lugat i Marianas Fitness, Ltd., un' kompania guine. I membron kuetpon este na kompania i sigiente siha: Russel D. Quinn, Marian Aldan-Pierce, Rexford C. Kosack, Yoshio S. Gabaldon, Kanae S. Quinn, Richard A. Pierce, Clarie S. Kosack, Angela Gabaldon, Christopher J. Nelson, and Brett D. Nelson.

I offisiat siha i sigiente: Russell D. Quinn, presidente; Marian Aldan-Pierce, segundu presidente; Rexford C. Kosack, secretariu; yan Yoshio S. Gabaldon, tesorariu. I kontratan este na atkilon manegosiu as Señor Kosack yan Señora Aldan-Pierce.

I umatikikila este na tanu publiku libre umusa i lugat pot bisnis eksisiu taimanu i gaige pago na fasilidat gi Marianas Fitness, Ltd. I tetminon atkilon bente siñku años (25 years) yan appottunadat ma-ekstenden este na atkilon talu kinse años (15 years).

I atkilon tanu kada sakan guaha figura mapega halom guine na kontrata segun i balin i lugat ni monhayan esta marikonose gi hilu i mafananaan "appraisal" ripot (katkulon balin tanu) ginen un' kualifikao na kompania.

I Depattamenton Tano taya otro plano ha resibe gi uson este siha na propiadat publiko giya Garapan, Saipan.

Kopian este na proposito gaige gi todo offisinan tanu publiku entalu Luta, Tinian yan Saipan. Libre kada sudadanu rumikonose este na dokumentu. I kabesanten depattamintun tanu publiku siña in' tiglie' yangin guaha sentimentun miyu pot i mapropopone. Este na anunsio areglon Lai Publiku 15-2. I utitimu haanen muna' halom opiniön i Agosto dia 7, 2009 gi todo Offisinan Tano Publiku giya Saipan, Tinian yan Luta.

ARONGORONG REEL POMWOL AKKILONUL FALÚWEER TOULAP

Sángi Tálil ye 106 (b) mellól Alléghúl Toulap 15-2, Bwulasiyool Ammwilil Falúweer Toulap ekke atotoowow ammatat igha ebwe akkilaaló eghús falúw mellól Seipél, Commonwealth Téél Falúwasch Marianas. Schóókka eyoor máfiyeer rebwe isisilong aghiyghii, aweewe, aingiingil reel pomwol akkilonul ammwelil falúweer toulap me bwal Alléghúl Toulap ye 15-2, e ayoor, lmal aweewe kka rebwe mweiti ngáli milikka ebwe akkatééló.

- Pomwol akkilonul falúweer toulap nge ekke bwaári Lot No 076 D 15, eyoor eluww sangaras llapal (3, 000 square meters), elapeló me ngáre eghús, elo Liyo, Luuta. Tilighial bwuley yeel nge eyoor mereel Bwulasiyool Falúweer Toulap (Public Lands) ngáre óubwe ghuley fischiy.
- Schéschéél schóól akkilon nge Marianas Fitness, Ltd., CNMI corporation. Schóóy Assamwoolul mwiisch (board of directors) mellól corporation nge Russel D. Quinn, Marian Aldan-Pierce, Rexford C. Kosack, Yoshio S. Gabaldon, Kanae S. Quinn, Richard A. Pierce, Clarie S. Kosack, Angela N. Gabaldon, Chistopher I. Nelson, me Brett D. Nelson..

Samwoolul (President) corporation nge Russell D. Quinn.. Arúschayúl assamwool (vice president) nge Marian Aldan-Pierce. Sekkeretorio nge Rexford C. Kosack. Treasurer nge Yoshio S. Gabaldon..

- Schóól aweweel akkilon nge Mr. Rexford C. Kosack me Ms. Marian Aldan-Pierce..
- Schóól akkilon ebwe yáali bwuley reel mwóghutufisch ngáre leliyal ammey (fitness gymnasium) fengál me wiisal..

Tool aighúghúl pomwol akkilon nge reweigh me limoow ráagh (25 years), emmwel rebwe sóbweey ngáli bwal seigh me limoow ráagh (15 years).

Pomwol akkilon yeel llól alongal ráagh nge ebwe mwir sángi llapal méél falúw (value of the property) me bwal meeta kka e akkayú mellól bwuley yeel.

- Tilighial akkilon yeel nge emmwel óubwe bwughi mereel bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap, elo aruwowal pwó (2nd floor) me Joeten Dandan Commercial Building llól Tuturam, Seipél; aruwowal pwó (2nd floor) mellól Bank of Saipan Commercial Building, Luuta; me ngáre mmwal pwó (1st floor) mellól Kings Commercial Building, Tchúlúyól.
- Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap nge esáál bweibwogh mwo pomwol akkilon ye elo Arabwal, Seipél..
- Samwoolul Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap nge ebwe bwughil ischil mángemáng, aingiingil mereel amweyút mmwal August (Elúwel) 7, 2009 mellól Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap iye elo Seipél, Luuta, Tchúlúyól.

NOTICE OF PROPOSED LEASE OF PUBLIC LAND

In accordance with Section 106 (b) of Public Law 15-2, the Department of Public Lands hereby gives notice of its intent to lease certain public lands in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Any interested parties of the general public may submit comments, data, views, or arguments of alternative proposals for the lease of the public land. As further provided by Public Law 15-2, the following pertinent information is required to be published.

- The proposed lease of public land is described as Lot No. 076 D 15, containing an area of approximately 3,000 square meters, more or less, situated in Garapan, Saipan. A copy of the location of the parcel is available at the Department of Public Lands for inspection.
- The prospective lessee is Marianas Fitness, Ltd., a CNMI Corporation. The Board of Directors of the Corporation are Russell D. Quinn, Marian Aldan-Pierce, Rexford C. Kosack, Yoshio S. Gabaldon, Kanae S. Quinn, Richard A. Pierce, Clarie S. Kosack, Angela N. Gabaldon, Christopher J. Nelson, and Brett D. Nelson.

The President of the Corporation is Russell D. Quinn. The Vice President is Marian Aldan-Pierce. The Secretary is Rexford C. Kosack. The Treasurer is Yoshio S. Gabaldon.

- The proposed lease was negotiated by Mr. Rexford C. Kosack and Ms. Marian Aldan-Pierce.
- The lessee shall use the premises solely for the purpose of operating an all-purpose fitness gymnasium and other related support facilities.

The term of the proposed lease agreement is 25 years, with an option to extend the lease for an additional 15 years.

The proposed annual rental during the term is based on a percentage of the appraised fair market value of the property, including existing structure(s).

- A copy of the proposed lease agreement may be obtained at the office of the Department of Public Lands, located on the 2nd floor of the Joeten Dandan Commercial Building in Dandan, Saipan; the 2nd floor of the Bank of Saipan Commercial Building, Rota; or the 1st floor of the Kings Commercial Building, Tinian.
- The Department of Public Lands has received no alternative proposals to lease the subject public land in Garapan, Saipan.
- The Secretary of the Department of Public Lands shall accept written comments, views, arguments or alternative proposals from interested parties on or before August 7, 2009 at the Department of Public Lands offices located in Saipan, Rota or Tinian.

Nation

Judiciary Committee OKs Sotomayor for high court

WASHINGTON (AP)—Pushing toward a historic Supreme Court confirmation vote, the Senate Judiciary Committee on Tuesday approved Judge Sonia Sotomayor to be the first Hispanic justice, over nearly solid Republican opposition.

The panel's 13-6 vote for Sotomayor masked deep political divisions within GOP ranks about confirming President Barack Obama's first high court nominee. Just one Republican, Sen. Lindsey Graham of South Carolina, joined Democrats to support her, although four others have said they'll vote for Sotomayor when her nomination comes before the full Senate next week—and that number is expected to grow.

"I would not have chosen her, but I understand why President Obama did. I gladly give her my vote, because I think she meets the qualifications test," Graham said. Obama's choice to nominate the first-ever Latina to the highest court is "a big deal," he



Sotomayor

added, declaring that, "America has changed for the better with her selection."

The near-unanimous Republican vote against Sotomayor on the Judiciary panel reflected the choice many GOP conservatives have made to side with their core supporters and oppose a judge they charge will bring liberal bias and racial and gender prejudices to her decisions. Others in the party, however, are concerned that doing so could hurt their efforts to broaden their base, and particularly alienate Hispanic voters, a fast-growing segment of the electorate.

Hispanic and civil rights groups hailed the Judiciary Committee's action as a turning point in the march toward embracing diversity and racial equality in the United States.

Wade Henderson of the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights called it "a significant milestone in our country's journey toward providing equal justice under the law."

Several strategists on both sides who have been closely tracking the nomination said as many as five more Republicans could join the five who have already announced their intention to vote for Sotomayor. They spoke on condition of anonymity to avoid publicly predicting the outcome.

Conservative activists are pressing for the GOP to keep up a united front against Sotomayor, whatever the political consequences. "Republican senators on the Judiciary Committee deserve praise for putting principle above identity politics today in voting against Sonia Sotomayor," said Curt Levey of the conservative Committee for Justice.

Hours after the panel's vote, Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison, R-Texas, announced she too would oppose Sotomayor, citing the nominee's views on the Second Amendment right to keep and bear arms. The vote had posed a particularly sticky dilemma for Hutchison, who is seeking her party's 2010 nomination for governor in Texas, where the population in more than one-third Latino.

AP sources: Bipartisan group eyes Medicare savings

WASHINGTON (AP)—A bipartisan group of senators agreed tentatively Tuesday on a plan to squeeze an additional \$35 billion out of Medicare over the next decade and larger sums in the years beyond, according to congressional officials, a step toward fulfilling President Barack Obama's goal of curbing the growth of health care spending.

Under the plan, an independent commission would be empowered to recommend changes in Medicare annually, to take effect automatically unless Congress enacted an alternative. In addition to saving money, the

proposal is aimed at turning the program for those age 65 and over into one that more clearly rewards quality, officials said.

The commission would be required to recommend \$35 billion in savings over a decade from Medicare. There was no immediate estimate on the longer-term effects of the provision, the topic of exhaustive discussion among three Democrats and three Republicans groping for a compromise on legislation atop the administration's domestic agenda. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity, saying they were not author-

ized to discuss details of the private talks.

The negotiations occurred as White House chief of staff Rahm Emanuel spent much of his day in the Capitol attempting to untangle a dispute that has stalled a companion bill in the House.

Progress has been blocked by a group of conservative-to-moderate Democrats seeking to exempt additional businesses from a requirement to offer insurance under the bill, and to alter the rules governing a government insurance option, among other changes.

ACROSS THE NATION

Pacific Northwest sweats as heat wave continues

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP)—It's feeling more like Phoenix in the Pacific Northwest this week, with temperatures throughout the region spiking along with demand for the cool comforts of air conditioning, water fountains and icy treats. The National Weather Service reported the temperature at Portland International Airport reached a record 106 degrees, well past the previous airport record of 101 set in 1998 but still short of the 107 all-time mark for the Portland area set in 1981. At Seattle-Tacoma International Airport, it was a tie with 1998 when the temperature climbed to 97 degrees on Tuesday. Wednesday "looks brutal," said National Weather Service meteorologist Jay Albrecht, with Seattle getting close to—if not over—the all-time record tem-

perature of 100 degrees set July 20, 1994, at Sea-Tac.

Powell: Harvard scholar might have reacted quickly

WASHINGTON (AP)—Former Secretary of State Colin Powell was mildly critical Tuesday of Harvard professor Henry Louis Gates Jr., whose angry response to a Cambridge, Mass., police officer touched off a national debate involving President Barack Obama. Powell, interviewed by CNN's Larry King, criticized the way Gates dealt with Sgt. James Crowley, a white officer who responded to reports of a possible break-in by arresting the black professor at his home on a charge of disorderly conduct. The charge was soon dropped. Gates "might have waited a while, come outside, talked to the officer, and that might have been the end of it," said Powell,

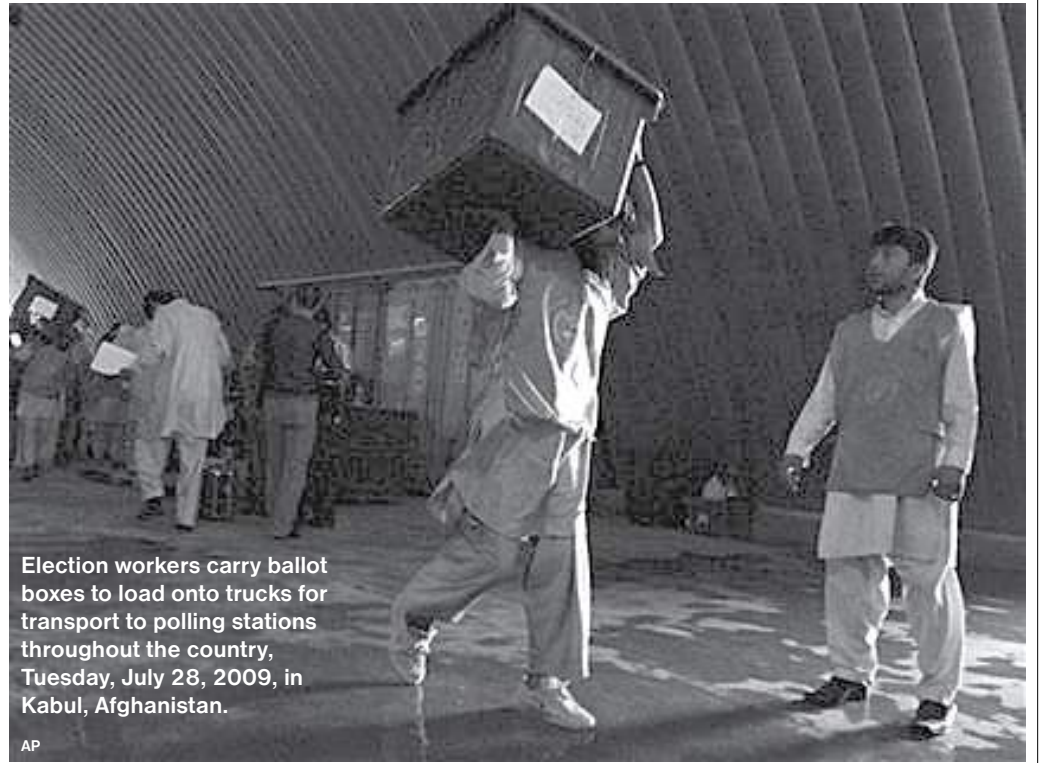
one of the nation's most prominent African Americans.

Warning signs missed in baby dismemberment case

SAN ANTONIO (AP)—The warning signs were there. Otty Sanchez, a schizophrenic with a history of hospitalizations, wasn't taking medication and was depressed after her son's birth, the boy's father said. A simple request seemed to set her off, alarming him and his family. Yet, the 33-year-old woman was staying in a house where she had access to samurai swords. Child welfare officials were never called. Instead, Sanchez's troubles became apparent to authorities when they found her before dawn Sunday screaming that she had killed her baby. Her 3 1/2-week-old son was dismembered in a scene so gruesome that police were left shaken.

Asia

10 percent of Afghan polling centers in danger



Election workers carry ballot boxes to load onto trucks for transport to polling stations throughout the country, Tuesday, July 28, 2009, in Kabul, Afghanistan.

AP

KABUL (AP)—Hundreds of polling stations could be closed in Afghanistan's most violent regions, raising concerns that many ethnic Pashtuns will be unable to vote in next month's presidential elections. That could undermine the legitimacy of the election, cause turmoil and possibly deprive President Hamid Karzai of a first-round victory.

Afghan authorities plan to establish about 7,000 polling centers across the country

for the Aug. 20 balloting. But security officials are unsure whether voting can take place in about 700 of them, said Noor Mohammad Noor, a spokesman for the Independent Electoral Commission.

At least 500 will probably not open because of security fears, according to a Western official working on the elections. He spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not supposed to comment publicly

on the process.

Nearly all those polling stations are located in Pashtun areas of the south and east where the Taliban insurgency is the strongest, the official said. Most are in the Pashtun provinces of Helmand, Kandahar, Wardak and Ghazni.

Taliban spokesmen have called on Afghans not to vote in the election but have not explicitly threatened to attack polling stations.

US man who swam to Suu Kyi said driven to do good

BANGKOK (AP)—He has been called a fool and a madman, an American innocent abroad who swam a lake to meet

beside her on trial, facing up to five years' imprisonment if found guilty on Friday.

Such a penalty would keep Suu Kyi incarcerated through next year's general election. If so, say her supporters, it is 53-year-old Yettaw who gave the generals the pretext by exposing her to charges that she violated her house arrest by harboring the uninvited guest.

Suu Kyi, who has already



Yettaw

More than two months after John William Yettaw's strange late-night swim to the home of Nobel Peace laureate Aung San Suu Kyi, he stands

spent 14 of the past 20 years in detention for her nonviolent promotion of democracy, has pleaded not guilty. So have Yettaw and two women who live with Suu Kyi at her lakeside house.

Some Suu Kyi supporters suspect he's a pawn of the regime; the regime insinuates he is being used by its exiled opponents. Associated Press interviews with people who know Yettaw reveal a man with a troubled past, strong Christian beliefs and a compulsion to comfort the afflicted.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Chinese leader stresses ethnic unity to minorities

BEIJING (AP)—China's president called Tuesday for the strengthening of ethnic unity in the country—his first public comments on the issue more than three weeks after deadly riots in the far west killed nearly 200 people. President Hu Jintao did not directly refer to the violence in Xinjiang between minority Uighurs and majority Han Chinese. He has not publicly appeared in the region since the July 5 riots in Xinjiang's capital, Urumqi. "Peoples of all ethnicities should respect each other, care for each other, and help each other to achieve common progress,"

Hu said on a tour of southwestern Yunnan province. "Let the flower of ethnic unity bloom brightly and beautifully."

Train derails in southern China, killing 4

BEIJING (AP)—A landslide caused a train to derail in southern China on Wednesday, killing at least four people and injuring 50, state media said. The official Xinhua News Agency said the train derailed in the pre-dawn hours in Liuzhou city in the Guangxi region. It was headed to Guangdong province from central China's Xiangfan city, Xinhua said, citing railway authorities. No further details were immediately available.

Bangladesh capital sees biggest rain in 53 years

DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP)—The heaviest rain in 53 years battered Bangladesh's capital Tuesday, leaving at least six people dead and stranding thousands in their swamped homes. The national weather office said 13 inches (33.3 centimeters) of rain fell in 12 hours in Dhaka, an overcrowded city of about 10 million people—the most in a single day since 1956. Live power lines snapped and killed at least six people, including two children, in central Dhaka, hospital authorities said. They gave no further details.

World

Iran turns inward, silent on US outreach

TEHRAN, Iran (AP)—The U.S. is hearing only silence from Iran on its offers of dialogue. Iran's leaders, who initially seemed to welcome engagement, are turning inward to deal with the post-election crisis.

If Iran's rulers mention the West at all these days, it's to tell Iranians the U.S. and its allies are behind the turmoil.

Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and his hard-line allies have repeatedly blasted the West, saying it is trying to topple clerical rule by fueling the opposition protests that erupted in the wake of the disputed June 12 presidential election.

Still, rhetoric for a domestic

audience, no matter how heated, is not a "no" to American diplomatic feelers.

Too much is in flux to answer the two main questions: Whether Khamenei and the rest of the leadership even want a dialogue—and, if they do, whether they are in a position to pursue it.

Much depends on how secure they feel in their confrontation with the opposition, which has posed the biggest challenge in decades to clerical rule by calling President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's election victory illegitimate.

"The Iranian leaders may actually make an attempt toward a certain level of normalization

with the West" in order to legitimize themselves with Iranians who want to ease tensions with the United States, said Rasool Nafisi, a Washington-based academic and Iran expert.

Equally, he said, "in order to show self-confidence, and prove that business is as usual, the leaders may refrain from any behavior that suggests a change in their attitude against the 'world arrogance'"—the hard-liners' term for the United States.

President Barack Obama's administration says it won't wait forever for the Iranians to make up their minds. Washington has set a vague deadline of this fall for Iran to respond.

Dozens missing after Haitian boat sinks; 15 dead

PROVIDENCIALES, Turks and Caicos (AP)—Rescuers searched by sea and air Tuesday for nearly 70 Haitians after an overloaded sailboat ran aground and capsized in reef-studded waters off the Turks and Caicos Islands, killing at least 15 migrants fleeing the poverty of their homeland.

The boat was carrying an estimated 200 people—men, women and teenagers—when it struck a coral reef and broke apart in rough seas near West Caicos, part of an archipelago that has proven to be deadly for Haitians in rickety vessels.

Such perilous journeys have

long been common throughout the world, but the number of migrants risking their lives to cross borders has declined amid increased enforcement in the United States and Europe and due to a global recession that has eliminated many unskilled jobs.

But people continue to set out in search of better lives, including the Haitians who crowded into a sailboat last week in northern Haiti.

Officials from the United States and the Turks and Caicos said 15 died and more than 100 were rescued, including some who were clinging for their lives

to the jagged reefs or who swam two miles to shore.

Dozens more were missing, as Coast Guard boats, airplanes and a helicopter joined local authorities and volunteers in searching a 1,600-square-mile area, U.S. Coast Guard Petty Officer 1st Class Jennifer Johnson said. Any survivors in the water would be struggling with 23 mph winds and 6-foot seas.

"We hope that there are survivors and we can get them medical attention," Johnson said. "However, as time goes by, it becomes less and less likely because of exposure and fatigue."

Chavez 'freezes' diplomatic ties with Colombia

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)—President Hugo Chavez recalled his ambassador from Bogota on Tuesday and threatened to halt Colombian imports after the neighboring country said anti-tank weapons found in a rebel arms cache came from Venezuela.

Chavez also said he would sever diplomatic ties completely and seize control of Colombian-owned businesses "if there's one more accusation against Venezuela."

The actions ratcheted up tensions between the two countries amid Chavez's criticism of a

pending deal to increase the U.S. military presence in Colombia, a key Washington ally in the region that has accused Chavez of helping leftist rebels. Chavez is a strong critic of U.S. influence in Latin America.

His warning to Colombia stems from President Alvaro Uribe's complaint over the weekend that anti-tank rocket launchers sold to Venezuela by Sweden during the 1980s were obtained by Colombia's main rebel group, the leftist Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, or FARC. Sweden

confirmed the weapons originally were sold to Venezuela's military.

Chavez accused Colombia of acting irresponsibly in the accusation, saying there is no evidence Venezuela was the source of the weapons.

"We are not going to accept this irresponsibility," Venezuela's socialist leader said.

In Bogota, the Colombian Foreign Ministry's said Uribe and Foreign Minister Jaime Bermudez were traveling outside the country and would have no comment until they return.

international demands to restore the ousted president. The U.S. State Department did not name the four, but a Honduran official said they included the Supreme Court magistrate who ordered the arrest of ousted President Manuel Zelaya and the president of Honduras' Congress. The State Department is also reviewing the visas of all officials serving under interim President Roberto Micheletti, department spokesman Ian Kelly said.

Nigerian troops surround militant hideout

MAIDUGURI, Nigeria (AP)—Army troops traded fire with Islamic militants Tuesday and deployed armored vehicles to surround the suspected hideout of a radical Muslim leader accused of orchestrating three days of violence in Africa's most populous nation. A tense calm returned to several towns elsewhere in northern Nigeria after authorities imposed curfews and poured security forces onto the streets to quell a wave of militant attacks against police, which have killed dozens of people since Sunday. Appealing for calm, President Umaru Yar'Adua told reporters: "This situation is being brought under control."

Life & Style

Fox's Glenn Beck says he believes Obama is racist

NEWYORK (AP)—Fox News Channel commentator Glenn Beck said he believes President Barack Obama is a racist. Beck made the statement during a guest appearance Tuesday on the "Fox & Friends" morning show. He said Obama has exposed himself as a person with "a deep-seated hatred for white people or the white culture."

His remarks came during a discussion of Obama's reaction to the arrest of Harvard University scholar Henry Louis Gates Jr. Gates is black and was arrested for disorderly conduct by a white policeman over a misunderstanding about a break-in at Gates' home.

An Obama spokesman, William Burton, said the White House had no comment on Beck.

Beck's statement was challenged on the air by Fox host Brian Kilmeade, who noted that most of the people who work for the nation's first black president are white.

"I'm not saying he doesn't like white people," Beck said. "He has a problem. This guy is, I believe, a racist."

Beck wondered, during the discussion, what other president would immediately jump on the police for their actions in the case. Obama said in a news conference that he believed the police acted stupidly in the case, but later backtracked from the statement and invited Gates and the police officer, Sgt. James Crowley, to the White House for a conciliatory meeting later this week.

Agreement allows videotaping of Beatty deposition

WILMINGTON, Del. (AP)—An agreement has been reached allowing the videotaping of Warren Beatty's deposition in his dispute with the Tribune Co. over the rights to cartoon detective Dick Tracy, a federal judge presiding over the case said Tuesday.

Although Beatty has made a living in front of the camera, his attorneys wanted U.S. Bankruptcy Judge Kevin Carey to prohibit the videotaping, arguing it was unnecessary and could result in a violation of his privacy. Beatty's lawyers have claimed such a recording would be in high demand online because of his celebrity status.

As part of the agreement, videotaping was allowed, but only four copies may be made—two for each side. The agreement, affirmed in a protective order Carey signed Tuesday, calls for each copy to contain a unique identifier, so that any leaks can be traced.

Although the agreement wasn't disclosed until Tuesday, Beatty gave his deposition last week, and a redacted transcript was presented in court.



AP
In this May 5, 2009 file photo, newscaster Glenn Beck attends the Time 100 Gala, a celebration of TIME Magazine's 100 most influential people in the world in New York.

Bill Shine, Fox News senior vice president of programming, told the TVNewsWeb site that Beck had "expressed a personal opinion which represented his own views, not those of the Fox News Channel. And as with all commentators in the cable news arena, he is given the freedom to express his opinions."

Racial controversies are hardly new to presidents. In 2005, entertainer Kanye West

said during a telethon after Hurricane Katrina that President George W. Bush "doesn't care about black people."

Beck, also a radio host and best-selling author, was an immediate hit with Fox News Channel viewers, starting in January when he made the jump from HLN (formerly CNN Headline News).

Beck didn't speak about the racial comments on his own Tuesday Fox show.

Beatty sued Tribune shortly before it filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection in December. The dispute stemmed from a 1985 agreement that gave the actor movie and TV rights to comic strip detective Dick Tracy and led to a movie of the same name starring Beatty.

The contract states that Beatty must start "principal photography" on a feature film, TV special or TV series by a certain deadline or else the rights revert back to Tribune.

In seeking to reclaim the rights, Tribune said Beatty did not fulfill his part. Beatty said he did commence principal photography on a TV special last November. The media company disputed that the TV special was such, describing it as more of a DVD takeout.

On Tuesday, Beatty's lawyer asked the judge to keep a DVD copy of the program under seal

since it hasn't yet aired. The judge agreed.

Tribune has said that the Dick Tracy rights are worth tens of millions of dollars in potential income to the company.

Tribune, which owns the Los Angeles Times, Chicago Tribune, the Chicago Cubs, and other media properties, is struggling under \$13 billion of debt stemming from a leveraged buyout to take the company private. A severe slump in advertising for newspapers and TV stations further hamstrung the company's turnaround efforts.

When Tribune filed for bankruptcy, Beatty's lawsuit in California was put on automatic hold. On Tuesday, his lawyer made his final arguments to persuade the judge to lift the stay, saying that it would be expensive and inconvenient for the actor to travel to Delaware for a trial. He also said that it was a California issue involving California executives, and thus a venue in that state would be appropriate.



Beatty

WORLD BRIEFS

Suspected car bomb explodes in Spanish city

MADRID (AP)—A suspected car bomb exploded early Wednesday near a Civil Guard barracks in the northern city of Burgos, the Interior Ministry said. Authorities did not have any immediate details on injuries or damage. State broadcaster RTVE said in its early morning radio and television news bulletins that several dozen people were slightly injured, mainly from flying glass, when the bomb detonated around 4:00 a.m. (0200 GMT). Police and emergency services did not receive any warning that a bomb had been planted, but the explosion had the hallmarks of a terror attack by the separatist Basque group ETA, the broadcaster said. Burgos was once the capital of Spain and contains a historic city center with important tourist attractions.

US revokes visas of 4 Honduran officials

OCOTAL, Nicaragua (AP)—The U.S. government said Tuesday it has revoked the diplomatic visas of four Honduran officials, stepping up pressure on coup-installed leaders who insist they can resist

Agents search Las Vegas home, office of Jackson doctor



Investigators search the home of Michael Jackson physician, Dr. Conrad Murray in Red Rock Country Club in Las Vegas on Tuesday, July 28, 2009, seeking documents as part of a manslaughter investigation into the singer's death.

LAS VEGAS (AP)—Federal agents searched the home and office of Michael Jackson's personal physician Tuesday in a widening investigation of whether administering a powerful anesthetic as a sleep aid was so reckless that it constitutes manslaughter.

Such charges against a doctor for the death of a patient are extremely rare. Authorities would have to show there was a reckless action that created a risk of death.

After a three hour-search of Dr. Conrad Murray's sprawling home near the 18th hole of a golf course in a private gated community, Los Angeles police and federal Drug Enforcement Administration agents carried away five or six plastic storage containers and several thick manila envelopes. Across town authorities searched Murray's medical offices, Global Cardiovascular Associates Inc., for nine hours seeking documents. Investigators removed several boxes but declined to describe what they had seized.

Murray's lawyer, Edward Chernoff, issued a statement saying the sealed search warrant "authorized investigators to look for medical records relating to Michael Jackson and all of his reported aliases."

Murray was present during the search of his home and assisted the officers, who seized cell phones and a computer hard drive, Chernoff said.

Though authorities characterize Murray as the target of the investigation, they have stopped short of labeling him a suspect.

Murray told investigators he administered the anesthetic propofol to Jackson the night he died to help him sleep, according to a law enforcement official who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because the investigation is ongoing. The official told AP that Murray left the bedroom where Jackson was sedated and returned to find the star not breathing. It's unclear how long Murray was out of the room.

The official said investigators are working under the theory that propofol

caused Jackson's heart to stop. Toxicology reports that should show what killed Jackson are expected as early as this week.

Propofol typically is used to render patients unconscious for surgery. The drug can depress breathing and lower heart rates and blood pressure.

Home use of propofol is virtually unheard of, and if Murray left Jackson's side he would have violated guidelines for the safe use of the drug drawn up by the American Society of Anesthesiologists. Those rules say a physician "should be physically present throughout the sedation and remain immediately available until the patient is medically discharged from the post procedure recovery area."

In considering a manslaughter charge against a doctor, a patient's complicity in taking the risk could reduce the doctor's culpability, said Harland Braun, a prominent Los Angeles defense attorney who has represented doctors in cases involving administering of drugs.

If a doctor is aware of the risk, there might also be an issue of whether the patient knows that risk and decided to take it.

Chernoff has said the doctor "didn't prescribe or administer anything that should have killed Michael Jackson." He declined interview requests Tuesday.

The search of Murray's home and business involved members of the DEA's Los Angeles Tactical Diversion Squad, agency spokesman Jose Martinez said. The team typically looks into cases involving legally prescribed drugs such as narcotic painkillers that are illegally sold or obtained by people not authorized to have them, such as "doctor shoppers" who get medications from several physicians so they can sell the drugs or feed their addiction.

Lt. Greg Strenk of the Los Angeles police robbery and homicide division said outside the medical office that the searches had been completed in Las Vegas but the in-

vestigation was ongoing.

The Las Vegas searches were the second time in less than a week that investigators targeted Murray's property. Last week authorities searched his Houston clinic and a storage unit. Court records show they were seeking evidence of whether the doctor committed manslaughter.

Murray, 56, who is licensed in California, Nevada and Texas, became Jackson's personal physician in May and was to accompany him to London for a series of concerts starting in July.

He was staying with Jackson in the entertainer's rented Los Angeles mansion and, according to Chernoff, "happened to find" Jackson unconscious in his bedroom the morning of June 25. Murray tried to revive him by compressing his chest with one hand while supporting Jackson's back with the other.

It took up to a half hour before paramedics were called, Murray's lawyers have said. The paramedics arrived about three minutes later and tried to revive the pop star for another 42 minutes before taking him to nearby UCLA Medical Center, where Jackson was pronounced dead.

Jackson is believed to have been using propofol for about two years and investigators are trying to determine how many other doctors administered it. Murray told investigators he had given Jackson the drug several times before, the law enforcement official told AP.

As investigators try to untangle Jackson's complex medical history they have interviewed at least six doctors who treated him and searched records for transactions involving aliases Jackson may have used to get drugs.

The official said Murray directed investigators to a closet in the room where Jackson slept. In it, they found enough propofol and sedatives to fill two gym bags. The room also contained an IV line and three tanks of oxygen, which would be needed for administration of propofol.

Jackson mom's request for estate info rejected

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The legal team for Michael Jackson's mother on Tuesday asked a judge for the power to press the administrators of her son's estate for more information ahead of a key hearing next week, but the judge rebuffed the effort.

Lawyers for Katherine Jackson on Tuesday requested the authority to interview attorney John Branca and former music executive John McClain this Friday, as well as demand they produce business contracts and other documents related to the late pop star.

Her lawyers argued in a court filing that the information was "potentially crucial" to a hearing set for Monday that could determine the permanent representatives of Jackson's estate, which is estimated to be worth more than \$500 million.

Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Mitchell Beckloff put off dealing with their request until Monday, effectively quashing it.

Beckloff may determine at Monday's hearing whether special administrators Branca and McClain will transition from temporary to permanent representatives of the estate, and whether an allowance will be granted to Katherine and Jackson's three children.

Jackson's 2002 will puts his assets in a trust that benefits Katherine, his three children and unnamed children's charities.

Tuesday's filing was meant to expedite the process of obtaining "important personal, business and legal information and documents relating to Michael Jackson" including his deal with concert promoter AEG Live, according to a written statement from L. Londell McMillan, who is part of Katherine Jackson's legal team.

They're also seeking "life insurance policies, settlements and disputes as well as agreements between the temporary special administrators and Michael Jackson (and others)."

McMillan said they'd requested some of the documents before and had hoped to see them before the



In this May 20, 2005 file photo, Michael Jackson, background, and his mother Katherine Jackson pass through a security check point on the way to his child molestation trial at the Santa Barbara County Courthouse in Santa Maria, Calif.

Aug. 3 hearing.

Katherine Jackson's lawyers alleged in filings that Branca and McClain were "intent on keeping her in the dark as much and for as long as possible."

Branca and McClain's legal team responded that the singer's mother had made "voluminous, burdensome and invasive discovery demands" that were impossible to meet in a short time frame.

It added that it could not produce the contract detailing Jackson's comeback tour with promoter AEG Live because of confidentiality provisions, but was willing to share the contract if Katherine Jackson agreed to the provisions. The parties were unable to agree on the terms.

The administrators' legal team also argued that it was unclear why Katherine Jackson was demanding so much information. Her subpoena and deposition notices had "all the earmarks of a protracted and expensive legal battle which does not appear to be justified," the administrators' lawyers said in a filing.

RP ex-president, 72, shoots comeback movie

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Former Philippine President Joseph Estrada, once an action movie star, is returning to the big screen with his first film since he was toppled on corruption charges.

The 72-year-old started filming a comedy Wednesday about a minibus driver trying to deal with his daughter's plans to marry her Filipino-American boyfriend, his spokeswoman Margaux Salcedo said.

"He really thinks that the poor, who are already suffering, should not be made to cry some more in the movies," Salcedo said. "He wants to make them happy, even if only briefly."

Estrada built his political career as a champion of the poor, largely based on his movie roles as an underdog. He rose from town mayor to senator, vice president and president.

He stepped down amid massive pro-

tests in 2001 after serving only half of his six-year term. He was convicted of plunder in September 2007 but was immediately granted a pardon by his successor and political nemesis, Gloria Macapagal Arroyo.

Estrada has said he will consider running for president again next year and that the constitutional ban on a second term does not apply to him.

Estrada, with his trademark mustache, pompadour and wristband, is a Filipino movie hall-of-famer, having starred in more than 100 films.

His last movie, "Sa Kuko ng Agila (In the Eagle's Claws)"—made in 1989 while he was a senator—portrays him as another minibus driver who opposes U.S. military bases in the Philippines.

"This is like his comeback film," Salcedo said of the new project. "He hasn't done a movie in so long."



Estrada

Lawyer: Song swapper on trial doing 'what kids do'

BOSTON (AP)—A Boston University graduate student was “a kid who did what kids do” when he swapped songs through file-sharing networks like Kazaa, his lawyer said Tuesday as his copyright-infringement trial began.

In only the second music-downloading case against an individual to go to trial, the major recording labels accuse Joel Tenenbaum, 25, of Providence, R.I., of downloading and distributing songs from bands such as Green Day and Aerosmith. The case centers on 30 shared songs, though the recording companies say he distributed many more than that.

Last month, a federal jury ruled a Minnesota woman must pay \$1.92 million for copyright infringement.

The industry has typically offering to settle cases for about \$5,000, though it has said that it stopped filing such lawsuits last August and is instead working with Internet service providers to fight the worst offenders. Cases already filed, however, are proceeding to trial.

Charles Nesson, the Harvard Law School professor representing Tenenbaum, said his client—a graduate student in physics—started downloading music as a teenager, taking advantage of file-sharing networks that make it possible for computer users to share digital files with a network of strangers.

“He was a kid who did what kids do and loved technology and loved music,” Nesson said in opening statements.

Nesson said the recording companies enjoyed decades of success but were slow to adapt to the advancements of the Internet.

“The Internet was not Joel’s fault,” Nesson said. “The Internet sweeps in like the way the automobile swept into the buggy industry.”

But Tim Reynolds, one of the lawyers representing the recording industry, said song-swappers like Tenenbaum take a significant toll on the recording industry’s revenues and on backup singers, sound engineers and other people who make a living in music.

Reynolds said Tenenbaum used a computer in his parents’ house in Providence and then at Goucher College in Baltimore, where he was a student, to download and distribute digital files. He was flagged in August 2004 by MediaSentry, a private investigation company that was used by the recording industry to identify illegal song distribution.

Reynolds said that Tenenbaum continued distributing songs even after he had been confronted about it and that the defendant blamed his sister, friends and a foster child who had lived at the house “This de-

fendant knew what he was doing was wrong at each step of the way,” Reynolds said.

Under federal law, the recording companies are entitled to

\$750 to \$30,000 per infringement but the law allows the jury to raise that to as much as \$150,000 per track if it finds the infringements were willful.

In the Minnesota case, the jury ruled Jammie Thomas-Rasset, 32, willfully violated the copyrights on 24 songs and awarded damages of \$80,000

per song.

Nesson urged the jury to “find the minimum number of infringements” by Tenenbaum, if any at all.

The recording companies involved in the case are subsidiaries of Universal Music Group, Warner Music Group Corp. and Sony Corp.

2009 TOURNAMENT OF CHAMPIONS



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■ Docomo Pacific

Bronze

■ G4S
■ KSPN2/The Visitors Channel
■ Asiana Airlines
■ Triple B Freight Forwarders
■ Hyatt Regency Saipan

■ Kautz Glass
■ Loewe
■ Chanel
■ Dickerson & Quinn
■ Ginen Saipan
■ Rainbow Color

■ Hana Tour
■ Sky Castle Limo
■ Sunlark Corp.
■ Cargo Express
■ Hard Rock
■ Island Printing

Dubliners decry U2's noisy all-night stage removal

DUBLIN (AP)—Dubliners angry over the around-the-clock dismantling of U2's monumental concert stage mounted street protests Tuesday, threatening the Irish band's plans for the next stop on their European tour.

Residents around Croke Park stadium said their aim was to embarrass the Dublin City Council and the Gaelic Athletic Association—which authorized two straight nights of noise—not hang up Ireland's most famous musical export.

Several dozen residents near the stadium called off their demonstrations after delaying U2's initial convoy for several hours. More than 50 trucks eventually left with the band's instruments, stage, lighting and sound equipment, and massive banks of television screens, behind schedule

for concerts Friday and Saturday in the Swedish city of Goteborg.

U2 officials confirmed that the trucks missed their ferry and were playing catch-up, but expressed optimism that the band's production would be fully assembled on time in Sweden.

"It will be tight," said Craig Evans, director of the U2 world tour, currently midway through its initial 15-city European leg.

U2 tour production director Jake Berry had complained earlier that he and other key logistics officials were caught off-guard when residents began protesting overnight at key road junctions flanking Croke Park, Ireland's largest stadium.

Berry said singer Bono, guitarist The Edge, bassist Adam Clayton and drummer Larry Mullen Jr. were told of the Dublin dis-



Irish rock band U2 perform at Croke Park in Dublin Monday July 27, 2009.

ruption about 5 a.m. Tuesday as their private jet landed in Nice, France, where they are staying in between European gigs.

He said the Dublin-born band felt "pure disappointment. It's just really put a damp squib

(sponge) on something that was a fantastic experience and fantastic show."

But Croke Park Area Residents' Committee spokesman David Purdue insisted the protesters weren't targeting U2.

"This is primarily to get Dublin City Council and the Gaelic Athletic Association to take notice of us and recognize the damage they're doing to the lo-

cal community," Purdue said.

The protesters said authorities should never have granted U2 a license to dismantle its stage over a continuous 44-hour period starting at 1 a.m. Tuesday—right after the last of U2's three Dublin concerts concluded before roaring crowds of 80,000.

The protesters called off the disruption after claiming that the stadium's Gaelic Athletic Association owners had privately promised never to authorize overnight construction work again. Gaelic officials issued an apologetic statement with no specific pledges.

The protesters' retreat also followed receipt of a threatening letter from U2's concert promoters, MCD Productions, identifying more than 50 local residents by name and warning they could be sued for any financial losses incurred by the promoters, U2 or others with a stake in one of the world's most lucrative musical ventures.

One protester, Barbara Ward, argued they succeeded in giving their loved ones a decent night's sleep.

The 48-year-old mother of four said if they hadn't blocked U2's truck fleet overnight, the vehicles would have been driving "in and out, one every 3 1/2 minutes, right through narrow roads and both sides of the stadium."

All sides agree it'll be noisy from dusk Tuesday to dawn Wednesday as construction work continues.

U2 workers are still disassembling the "Claw," a 390-ton, four-legged steel monstrosity that holds more than 150 tons of audiovisual equipment above the stage. Croke Park officials have also begun laying new grass turf for Gaelic football playoffs this weekend.

U2 is using three Claws on its tour—while one is in use, the two others are being erected at the next site or being dismantled at the last.

O'Keeffe legacy watchers take on elementary school

SANTA FE, N.M. (AP)—The guardians of Georgia O'Keeffe's legacy have a bone to pick with an Albuquerque elementary school named after the artist. It's not a pretty picture.

Officials of The Georgia O'Keeffe Museum in Santa Fe complained recently about a "GOK" logo proposed for the school's new facade, and about T-shirts that said "Georgia O'Keeffe Kindergarten."

E-mails from the museum warned of possible trademark infringement and suggested that fees may be required for some uses of the name.

"Everyone's shocked," said Yvonne Dion, president of the school's PTA. "This has never, ever, ever been an issue."

O'Keeffe, one of the foremost American painters, was a modernist whose best-known works include large-scale depictions of flowers. She lived for almost 40 years in northern New Mexico, where the starkness inspired her desert landscapes and iconic paintings of skulls and bones.

She died in Santa Fe in 1986 at the age of 98.

The school has borne O'Keeffe's name since it opened in 1988. While no one asked for permission, O'Keeffe's estate and the foundation that was formed to perpetuate her legacy didn't object at the time.

Among the foundation's stated goals: "to fight the proliferation of unauthorized coffee mugs, T-shirts, buttons, scarves, trivets and other pernicious appropriations of her work."

Three years ago, the museum

took over the foundation's work and acquired the rights to the artist's art, likeness and name. The museum wants to ensure that "any uses of the material will promote Miss O'Keeffe and her art in a respectful manner," rights and reproductions manager Judy Lopez said in an e-mail in June.

The school's principal, Lucinda Sanchez, was distressed by the message and its tone.

"We've never used or represented Ms. O'Keeffe's name in a disparaging way. We've worked hard to honor it—and make it a fabulous school," Sanchez said.

The school hasn't used or reproduced O'Keeffe's art, she said. If there's art work on T-shirts, it's typically a ram, the school's mascot. The school's name does appear on items such as wrist bands, water bottles and the T-shirts provided to kindergarten students for field trips.

"For safety, we usually have kids wear T-shirts with the school name on it, just in case they get lost," Sanchez said.

The award-winning school in northeast Albuquerque, which has 600 students in kindergarten through 5th grade, opened with portable buildings. Permanent facilities are being built and should be ready in 2010.

The initials "GOK" are proposed to appear on the front of the new school.

According to copies of e-mails provided by Albuquerque Public Schools, a lawyer for APS who spoke to Lopez said Lopez thought people might be encouraged to refer to the school

as "GOK"—which sounds "just awful" and which she believed O'Keeffe would not approve of—rather than "G-O-K."

A second e-mail from Lopez, in July, objected to a kindergarten's T-shirt.

The e-mail said the museum wants to be told about any use of the artist's name before products are produced. The museum will be "generous in granting permission" and will waive fees "for approved internal use." The museum may have to charge fees for commercial usage, Lopez said.

Lopez refused to comment for this story, and other museum officials did not respond to repeated requests for interviews.

Sanchez said she's happy to discuss changes to the "GOK".

But the principal and the PTA president are worried about a cumbersome approval process for, say, trinkets given to students as rewards. "Everyone is a little blown away that we may have to be going through all these hoops," Dion said.

And the idea of paying the museum for using the school's name on T-shirts sold as fundraisers for the library or other projects rankles school officials. "We're a school, and we're doing our best to educate children, and we're not out to commercially gain from Ms. O'Keeffe," Sanchez said.

The women say it might just be easier to change the name of the school.

The museum said in a statement it was proud to have a school named after O'Keeffe, that it "never had the slightest intention of asking that the name be changed," and that it looked forward to talking with school officials about the further use of the artist's name.

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G-Force

Fri. and Sat. 1:10 4:15 7:30 9:45
 Sun. thru Thurs. 1:10 4:15 7:30

Nicolas Cage, Steve Buscemi
 Action, Animated • Rated PG

Synopsis

A group of guinea pigs trained by the government to work in espionage, armed with the latest high-tech spy equipment, soon discover that the fate of the world is in their paws. Tapped for the G-Force are guinea pigs Darwin the squad leader determined to succeed at all costs; Blaster, an outrageous weapons expert with tons of attitude and a love for all things extreme; and Juarez a sexy martial arts pro; plus the literal fly-on-the-wall reconnaissance expert, Mooch, and a star-nosed mole, Speckles, the computer and information specialist.



Orphan

Fri. and Sat. 1:25 4:20 7:05 9:50
 Sun. thru Thurs. 1:25 4:20 7:05

Peter Sarsgaard, Isabelle Fuhrman
 Thriller, Horror • Rated R

Synopsis

The tragic loss of their unborn child has devastated Kate and John, taking a toll on both their marriage and Kate's fragile psyche as she is plagued by nightmares and haunted by demons from her past. Struggling to regain some semblance of normalcy in their lives, the couple decides to adopt another child. At the local orphanage, both John and Kate find themselves strangely drawn to a young girl named Esther. Almost as soon as they welcome Esther into their home, however, an alarming series of events begins to unfold, leading Kate to believe that there's something wrong with Esther—this seemingly angelic little girl is not what she appears to be.



Harry Potter and The Half Blood Prince

Fri. and Sat. 1:05 4:10 7:15 10:10
 Sun. thru Thurs. 1:05 4:10 7:15

Daniel Radcliffe, Emma Watson
 Fantasy, Adventure, Sequel • Rated PG-13

Synopsis

Voldemort is tightening his grip on both the Muggle and wizarding worlds and Hogwarts is no longer the safe haven it once was. Harry suspects that dangers may even lie within the castle, but Dumbledore is more intent upon preparing him for the final battle that he knows is fast approaching. Together they work to find the key to unlock Voldemort's defenses and, to this end, Dumbledore recruits his old friend and colleague, the well-connected and unsuspecting bon vivant Professor Horace Slughorn, whom he believes holds crucial information.



Ice Age: Dawn Of The Dinosaurs

Fri. and Sat. 1:20 4:30 7:25 9:30
 Sun. thru Thurs. 1:20 4:30 7:25

John Leguizamo, Queen Latifah
 Family-Oriented Adventure • Rated PG



Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen

Fri. and Sat. 1:00 4:00 7:00 10:00
 Sun. thru Thurs. 1:00 4:00 7:00

Shia LaBeouf, Megan Fox
 Sci-Fi Action • Rated PG-13



My Sister's Keeper

Fri. and Sat. 1:30 4:25 7:20 9:55
 Sun. thru Thurs. 1:30 4:25 7:20

Cameron Diaz, Abigail Breslin
 Family Drama • Rated PG-13



The Proposal

Fri. and Sat. 1:15 4:05 7:10 9:40
 Sun. thru Thurs. 1:15 4:05 7:10

Sandra Bullock, Ryan Reynolds
 Romantic Comedy • Rated PG-13

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Obama appears on comedian George Lopez's talk show

PASADENA, Calif. (AP)—George Lopez landed a big name cameo in the pilot presentation of his talk show: President Barack Obama.

In a clip shown during a Tuesday meeting of the Television Critics Association, the comedian jokingly begs for a cabinet spot from the president.

Obama lightly brushes him off, saying: "George, you need to change late night. That's the kind of change I can believe in."

Lopez hopes the president will appear as a full-fledged guest on his upcoming late-night TBS talk show when it premieres in November. The 48-year-old comedian, who stumped for Obama on the campaign trail last year, told reporters Obama is a "close friend" and that he would be "personally offended" if Obama did not appear on "Lopez Tonight" the next time he is in Los Angeles.

President Barack Obama participates in an AARP tele-town hall on health care, Tuesday, July 28, 2009, in Washington.

AP

Publicist: Kim Kardashian and Reggie Bush break up

NEW YORK (AP)—Kim Kardashian and Reggie Bush are splitsville. Kardashian's spokeswoman, Jill Fritzo, confirmed the longtime couple has called it quits. Fritzo declined further comment. The 28-year-old reality star dated the 24-year-old New Orleans Saints running back for some two years.

She recently discussed the difficulties of having a long-

distance relationship on her E! reality show "Keeping Up With the Kardashians." Kardashian co-stars with her family on the hit series, which ended its third season in May. Last November, Kardashian said she and Bush were "dedicated" and tried to see each other often. She said, "When you're committed to something and really want something, you make it work."



In this May 8, 2009 file photo, football star Reggie Bush, left, and television personality Kim Kardashian arrive at the 16th Annual Race to Erase MS Gala in Los Angeles.

AP

Wilson, Sony Music Nashville part ways

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—"Redneck Woman" Gretchen Wilson and her longtime record label, Sony Music Nashville, have parted.

Sony announced the split Tuesday, describing it as a mutual decision.

Wilson shot to fame with her 2004 smash "Redneck Woman." Her debut album, "Here For the Party," sold 5 million copies.

Her next two albums for

Sony—2005's "All Jacked Up" and 2007's "One of the Boys"—reached No. 1 but didn't sell nearly as well as her debut and produced only one Top 10 single between them.

Sony says in a statement that while Wilson will no longer record for the label as a solo artist, both parties look forward to working together on catalog projects.

Wilson was not immediately available for comment.

Chimp's memoir among contenders for Booker Prize

LONDON (AP)—The purported autobiography of a movie-star chimpanzee is among the contenders for Britain's most prestigious literary award.

"Me Cheeta" is one of 13 novels on the Booker Prize longlist. Originally published anonymously, James Lever's book claims to tell the life story of the chimp who gained 1930s Hollywood stardom in "Tarzan" movies.

Other contenders announced Tuesday are former Booker winners A.S. Byatt and J.M. Coetzee, as well as Adam Foulds, Sarah Hall, Samantha Harvey, Hilary Mantel, Simon Mawer, Ed O'Loughlin, James Scudamore, Sarah Waters, William Trevor and Colm Toibin.

The shortlist will be announced Sept. 8 and the winner of the 50,000 pound (\$82,000) prize on Oct. 6.

The Booker is open to writers from Britain, Ireland or the Commonwealth.

Hulk Hogan, wife settle terms of divorce in Fla.



CLEARWATER, Fla. (AP)—Hulk Hogan and his wife have finally reached a settlement in their divorce case.

The 55-year-old celebrity wrestler—whose real name is Terry Bollea—said in court Tuesday morning that he and his wife, Linda, have agreed to the terms of the split. The divorce was finalized during a brief hearing.

Both say they want to put aside months of bitterness and get on with their lives. They and their attorneys had publicly clashed over everything from money to Linda Bollea allowing her boyfriend to drive the couple's vehicles.

Linda Bollea said after the hearing that "the war is over."

The terms were not made public. In 2008 court filings, the couple's net worth was listed at between \$26 million and \$32 million.

In this Feb. 8, 2006 file photo, Hulk Hogan and his wife Linda arrive at the 48th annual Grammy Awards, in Los Angeles.

AP

Daughter should be spared pain of knowing she was unwanted

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: I just had to respond to "Daddy Who Cares" (June 2), whose wife is threatening to tell their teenaged daughter, "Gina," she was not wanted. For me a person's most defining trait is not gender, age or race. It's whether or not he or she was wanted. The other traits are things that nature or society put on you. Once you know you were not wanted by the people who put you here, it can easily define you, and it brings pain that will never go away.



Dear Abby

It doesn't matter how much you achieve or how much your parents say they love you. A piece of your life just doesn't fit. Those of us who carry this knowledge understand the sadness very well. It is something that can't be taken back.

So please inform "Daddy Who Cares" wife that what she felt so many years ago is nothing compared to the sadness that "Gina" will bear and examine throughout her life. There is no unhappiness more lasting than knowing you were not welcomed into this world.

WOUNDED HEART IN NEW YORK

DEAR WOUNDED: Thank you for your heartfelt letter. Readers were extremely vocal on this subject and agree that telling "Gina" would be devastating and only cause her undeserved and unnecessary pain. Read on:

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: Kudos on your advice to "Daddy Who Cares." When I was a teenager I overheard my mother tell a friend of hers that I was an unplanned pregnancy. To the best of my knowledge, my parents never considered abortion, but nonetheless, it destroyed my self-esteem.

In the case of "Daddy," where abortion was considered and planned, I suspect the emotional damage would be far worse. It's a good thing "Daddy" has custody because the mother seems willing to disregard her child's welfare in order to get vengeance on her husband. You're right, Abby—absolutely no good can come from the disclosure of that information.

ONE WHO KNOWS IN CHICAGO

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I was a child who was both unplanned and unwanted. When I was 13, my mother, in a fit of anger, told me she wished she had the abortion she planned to have before I was born. It was then that I realized that the "gut" feeling I'd had all my life to that point and beyond was correct—my mother never wanted me. Neither of my parents ever told me the whole truth nor did they ever say how glad they were not to have gone through with the plan.

I have always had difficulty trusting my parents, and I have always known I wasn't wanted. Years of therapy have healed the deep wounds. "Daddy" should tell his daughter the story and also tell her how much he loves her and wants her in his life, and that he is glad they never went through with the original plan. If he does, she will be able to trust him and know she was not a "mistake."

DEEPLY WOUNDED IN NEW HAMPSHIRE

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: Ever since I can remember, my mother has told me her "funny story" about how she was "horrificed" when she learned she was pregnant with me and asked the doctor for an abortion. And as a result, I have struggled with low self-esteem and feelings of worthlessness my entire life.

As an adult and mother, I can pinpoint this "amusing anecdote" as the root cause of many of these issues. I pray that the young girl in that letter never finds out that her parents considered abortion. No matter how many times her dad say he "thanks God everyday that she is here," the damage to her psyche will be forever.

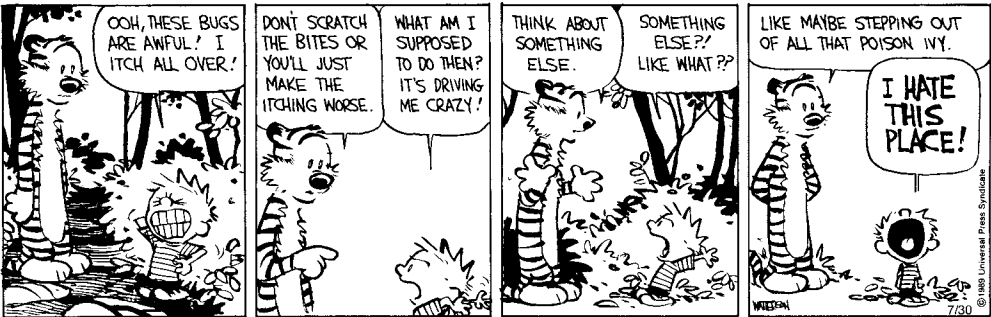
WISH I NEVER KNEW

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Good advice for everyone—teens to seniors—is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$6 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby—Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Pastimes

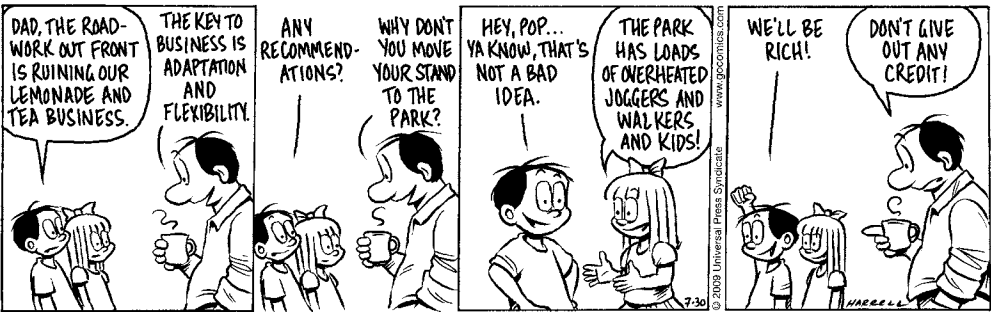
Calvin and Hobbes



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The Duplex



CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 "Water-loo"

5 "Go, team!"

8 Too confident

12 Complain

13 Past

14 Banks on the runway?

15 Despot

16 Old soldier

17 "— It Roman-tic?"

18 Doddering

20 Sodium chloride

22 Accordion's cousin

26 Utter disorder

29 Companion to green eggs

30 Proof abbr.

31 Stop

32 Lustrous black

33 Car

34 Under the weather

DOWN

1 Revue segments

2 Con-temptible

3 Cereal choice

4 Brandy flavor

5 Poe's bird

6 Census statistic

7 Position of great anxiety

8 Half a clown's pair, maybe

9 Magical aura

10 Coffee shop vessel

11 Roscoe

19 Part of UCLA

21 Branch

23 Swindle

24 Trawler gear

25 Big bothers

26 Stylish

27 Head light?

28 Until dawn

32 Daffodil's cousin

33 Robin Hood and his Merry Men, e.g.

35 "Well, I'll — monkey's uncle!"

36 4-Down has one

38 Words to live by

39 Unfair?

42 Seed covering

43 Pleasant

44 "Monopoly" card

45 "This means —!"

46 Expert

48 Menagerie

Solution time: 25 mins.

PEA CLAN GAM
ALERT LAMER
PUBLIC SERVANT
TEE QUEST MOO
BURR LEON
LURED SMART
TAPA BLAB
SIT COLIC ADO
PRIVATEDANCER
SCATHE QATAR
KNEED UPON
ERR EER

Yesterday's answer 7-30

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11
12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25
26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44
45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Brad Hargreaves, 38; Tom Green, 38; Vivica A. Fox, 45; Lisa Kudrow, 46

Happy Birthday: Your emotions are likely to lead you off course this year, so do a practicality check to ensure you aren't traveling down a path that leads nowhere. Spending money on something risky will cause arguments with the people your decisions will influence. Don't overstep your boundaries by taking on too much or trying to make changes that aren't within your means. Taking advantage of someone else's misfortune may turn into your loss and hard luck. Your numbers are 7, 12, 19, 23, 34, 40, 48

ARIES (March 21-April 19): A social networking group will give you reason to move forward with an idea you have. A business trip will help you build a solid and secure base for future dealings. It's time to raise your standards. ★★★★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): A problem with someone you don't see eye-to-eye with will try your patience. Keep your thoughts to yourself until you come up with a solution that will work for everyone. Don't believe everything you hear. ★★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You don't have to give in. Focus on what's important to you and you will advance. It's your strength of character that will make the difference. Sort out any alternative ideas you have regarding home, family and lifestyle. ★★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You may want to set your goals high but you may have to settle for less. Be reasonable and don't be misled by someone only interested in using you. A practical approach will ensure that you protect what you have already acquired. A regimented self-improvement project will pay off. ★★★★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): False information will lead to a costly mistake. Making changes at home may be tempting but, in the end, you are better off doing the work yourself. Overindulgence, overspending and overdoing will be your demise. ★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): A heart-to-heart talk with someone who knows the ropes will enable you to react differently to a work-related problem. Someone from your past has information that can make a difference to your outlook and confidence. ★★★★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Your professional pursuits should be at the top of your to-do list. Open up conversations with people who can make a difference to what you are trying to accomplish. You can charm your way into a situation that will enable you to enlist help. ★★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Trust in your own judgment not someone who is negative or trying to ruin your plans. Don't be too shy or kind to put someone in his or her place. An emotional matter can help you put things in perspective. ★★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Take care of any medical, legal or health issues. You have to put yourself first and deal with anything causing you stress. Don't let

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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your emotions play havoc with a decision you have to make. ★★★

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): A serious attitude will command attention and bring results. Problems will occur if you overload your plate. Misplacing something of value will create anxiety. A job opportunity will develop if you show your ability to handle a business situation. ★★★★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You can open doors that have been closed in the past. A lot can be gained if you remember the experiences you have had and avoid a repeat performance. A change in lifestyle may worry someone who cares about you. ★★★★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Don't trust anyone who is promising the impossible. The past will give you the answers you are looking for. Use your experience to turn things around. Stand by the people you trust. ★★

Birthday Baby: You are emotional, sensitive, appealing and popular. You are a leader, a truth-seeker and an adventurer.

Eugenia's Web sites: astroadvice.com for fun, eugenialast.com for confidential consultations

STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

4									5
	7			3					8
			1	7	4				
		5				9			
	6	4		9		7	3		
		8				6			
			7	2	9				
	9			8				6	
1									4

Difficulty Level ★★★ 7/30

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

6	2	9	1	3	8	5	7	4
3	7	1	5	9	4	2	6	8
4	5	8	2	6	7	3	1	9
8	9	4	6	5	1	7	2	3
2	6	3	7	8	9	1	4	5
5	1	7	3	4	2	8	9	6
1	8	6	9	7	3	4	5	2
9	3	2	4	1	5	6	8	7
7	4	5	8	2	6	9	3	1

Difficulty Level ★★★ 7/29

WONDERWORD By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

MOSCOW SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA Solution: 9 letters

C N S N A M X A W S A L T E R
O O A U C O E S O A R E N A (P)
N L L X O R E U R Y A V I Z (L)
C O F L O M L N K M T F W D (A)
E P E C E S A S S O F O U M (Y)
R S S H M C N F U O H A I S K
T N T L L O T R N S C N O M S
O A I I L S N I G C O N A Y V
S F V B I E N L O R G J C N O
A E A O M A A L A N O T O O K
I I L I M Z A H M R S T N H I
S O R H U D C S M U B L A P A
S E C N E I D U A O S R I M H
U A O S R E N I E T S I P Y C
R V I O L I N I B A I R C S T

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Accolades, Albums, Arena, Audiences, Collections, Concertos, Famous, Fans, Festival, Films, Glazunov, Iablonsky, Live, Major, Minor, Music, Naxos, Piano, Play, Polo, Rachmaninoff, Rich, Russia, Salter, Score, Scriabin, Show, Soloist, Song, Soul, Steiner, Symphony, Tchaikovsky, Team, Themes, Tonal, Tourmemire, Violin, Waxman, Works, Ziva

Yesterday's Answer: Connected

SALE: The topics of "Wonderword for Kids" appeal to younger fans but the puzzle difficulty matches what you've come to expect from Wonderword. A 10-year-old, the book is suitable for kids ages 10-13. Kids ages 14-18 can tackle the 10-year-old's puzzle. The book is available for \$4.99. Order online at www.wonderword.com or call 1-800-642-6400. Order online at www.wonderword.com.

Favre says no to a comeback with the Vikings



MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—The purple No. 4 jerseys with "FAVRE" on the back were already in heavy circulation around the Twin Cities and it seemed almost inevitable that Brett Favre would end his second retirement to join the Minnesota Vikings.

Then Favre dropped the news that surprised many—inside the organization and out—when he called Vikings coach Brad Childress on Tuesday to tell him he was staying retired and would not be joining the Vikings for training camp.

"The writing on the wall was, as long as his arm was healthy he was going to play," Vikings linebacker Ben Leber said. "I thought it was just a contractual deal that was taking so long and I really expected him to be at camp. So I was really surprised."

Now the Vikings are left to pick up the pieces after their summer-long courtship of the future Hall of Fame quarterback ended with a phone call just two days before players are required to report to training camp in Mankato.

"It was the hardest decision I've ever made," Favre told ESPN. "I didn't feel like physically I could play at a level that was acceptable. I would like to thank everyone, including the Packers, Jets and Vikings - but, most importantly, the fans."

Set to turn 40 in October, Favre told Childress that he didn't think his body could withstand a 19th season in the NFL. This after he retired for a second time, was granted his release from the New York Jets and had surgery to alleviate a torn biceps in his throwing arm, presumably to get him ready for one last run at a title.

But after two months of throwing to kids at Oak Grove High School in Mississippi, and a few interviews that seemed to indicate he was leaning toward joining the Vikings, Favre came to the conclusion that he just doesn't have it in him.

"I had to be careful not to commit for the wrong reasons," Favre said. "They were telling me, 'You went through all this, you had the surgery and you've got to finish it off.' But I have legitimate reasons for my decision. I'm 39 with a lot of sacks to my name."

In the end, the player who set nearly



In this July 15, 2009, file photo, quarterback Brett Favre drops back to pass during drills with the Oak Grove High School football team in Hattiesburg, Miss.

every significant passing record the NFL has during 16 brilliant seasons with the rival Green Bay Packers managed to hand the Vikings one more loss.

He turned down a chance to join the defending NFC North champions, a team with a stingy, veteran defense and

the best running back in the NFL in Adrian Peterson. Adding Favre would have made the Vikings a stylish pick to win the NFC, but now they will have to go back to their original plan of having Tarvaris Jackson and Sage Rosenfels compete for the job.

"It was a rare and unique opportunity to consider adding not only a future Hall of Fame quarterback but one that is very familiar with our system and division," Childress said in a statement. "That does not detract from the team that we have."

Jackson's agent, Joel Segal, said his client is eager to show the Vikings, and their fans, that they had the right man for the job all along. He will be entering his fourth season in the NFL and took strides at the end of last year before a poor performance in the playoffs contributed to Minnesota's loss to Philadelphia at home.

Segal said the Vikings' pursuit of Favre has not bothered Jackson.

"Tarvaris is very even-tempered," the agent said. "He's got a very calm demeanor. No matter what he's always ready to compete."

This is Favre, of course. Over the past two seasons he has shown a penchant for changing his mind, so it wouldn't be shocking to see him reverse course and try to join the Vikings later in the preseason.

For now, at least, the Vikings seem eager to put the circus behind them and move on.

"I would love to believe him. I would love it if everybody involved could put this thing to bed and have a little respect for the other quarterbacks involved and maybe for the team," Leber said. "Nobody wants this to linger on and be an ongoing distraction. We'll see if he keeps his word. I understand he's a guy that doesn't like training camp. Nobody does."

Leber called it "a relief" to finally have an answer to the drama and Childress said he is content with what he has on his team.

"As we have consistently communicated, we feel good about our team and they have put forth a tremendous effort this offseason preparing for the season ahead," Childress said. "With this behind us, we look forward to getting to Mankato and getting training camp under way."

Vick sweepstakes: One day and, so far, no takers

If any NFL teams are interested in Michael Vick, they're not saying.

A day after the quarterback was conditionally reinstated to the league, only the Baltimore Ravens would directly acknowledge evaluating him.

"We've had long discussions about Michael Vick and we have a feeling about how he would impact our team and not impact our team," coach John Harbaugh said Tuesday.

General manager Ozzie Newsome declined comment. Previously, he has said the Ravens have enough quarterbacks.

Other teams either refused comment or insisted they wouldn't pick up the former Atlanta Falcons star, who served 18 months in federal prison for running a dogfighting ring and was released from home confinement on July 20.

Commissioner Roger Goodell said Monday that Vick can immediately take part in preseason practices, workouts and meetings and can play in the final two preseason games - if he can find a team.

Once the season begins, Vick may

participate in all team activities except games, and Goodell said he would consider Vick for full reinstatement by Week 6 (Oct. 18-19) at the latest.

Two clubs that might have seemed like a logical destination—the Miami Dolphins and Cincinnati Bengals—said they wouldn't pursue Vick.

Bengals owner Mike Brown refers to himself as "a redeemer" and is known for giving troubled players a second chance, or more. But Cincinnati has a full complement of quarterbacks, and starter Carson Palmer has fully recovered from an elbow injury that sidelined him for 12 games last season.

"When you have a situation like ours, he's a very difficult fit," Brown said. "Quarterbacks are like queen bees - you can only have one of them before they start stepping on each other. And we have ours. Carson's the guy. That's why it just doesn't fit for here in a football sense."

The Dolphins rejuvenated their offense last season by mixing in the Wildcat, a variation of the single wing. The

package featured direct long snaps to running back Ronnie Brown, who usually ran with the ball.

The Wildcat would take advantage of Vick's running ability, but the Dolphins drafted another running quarterback in April: West Virginia's Pat White. They also have 2008 NFL Comeback Player of the Year Chad Pennington returning and promising Chad Henne as the No. 2 quarterback.

"We don't have an interest," general manager Jeff Ireland said in a statement. "We like the players we have on our current roster."

Denver Broncos coach Josh McDaniels said "we're not bringing him in right now," but acknowledged the team is always weighing its options. The Broncos have uncertainty at quarterback after trading the disgruntled Jay Cutler. Kyle Orton is penciled in as the starter.

"We're always going to try to do what's best for the organization—that could mean it's a player or a situation that we're going to evaluate," McDaniels said. "We're always going to try to

make sure that we leave no stone unturned. If it means adding a player, we have looked at every player that we feel out there could help us at this time."

One organization that wants Vick is the upstart UFL. The four-team league plans to kick off a six-game season in October.

"I still think we are the best option for him," UFL commissioner Michael Huyghue said.

Huyghue suggested Vick could prove to NFL teams that he's ready to return—on and off the field—during the UFL season.

Buffalo Bills quarterback Trent Edwards figured Vick's conditional status would leave general managers in a bind.

"It's got to be hard to sign him, because where are you going to put him?" he said. "You don't know if he'll be able to play Week 1, and you want him to be your starting quarterback or at least compete for a starting job, (but) you can't essentially do that as a general manager."

Longtime Eagles coordinator Jim Johnson dead at 68

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Jim Johnson frustrated opponents and confused young quarterbacks with his complex defensive schemes, always looking for a new way to disguise a blitz.

He never ran out of ideas or the desire to coach, even when he had more pressing concerns. In his final days, he was concerned about the start of training camp.

Johnson, whose attacking defenses helped the Philadelphia Eagles to one Super Bowl appearance and five NFC title games, died on Tuesday. He was 68.

"There's been no finer coach or man than Jim Johnson," team chairman Jeffrey Lurie said. "The Eagles family has been blessed and everyone who's surrounded the football team or surrounded Jim in everything he conducted himself, we had a true gem here and there aren't a lot of Jims."

Johnson had taken a leave of absence from the team in May as he continued to battle a cancerous tumor on his spine. On Sunday, the Eagles announced that Sean McDermott would replace Johnson.

A veteran of 22 years as an NFL assistant, Johnson was considered one of the top defensive minds in the league. His defenses consistently ranked among the best in the league, including last season, when the Eagles finished third in total defense and fell one victory short of the Super Bowl.

From 2000-08, Johnson's Philadelphia defenses ranked second in the NFL in sacks (390). During his 10-year tenure, the Eagles made the playoffs seven times and he produced 26 Pro Bowl selections.

"This whole Eagles-Andy Reid regime here that's taken place wouldn't have been possible without Jim," said Andy Reid, who hired Johnson to be his defensive coordinator shortly after he got his first head coaching job with the Eagles in 1999.

"I'm not sure there's a person that I've met that isn't a Jim Johnson fan. He really represented everything this city is all about with his toughness and grit. That's the way he fought this cancer."

Reid and team president Joe Banner visited Johnson in the hospital on Monday. Reid said he spoke with Johnson a few days before the visit and football was on his mind.

"He was very concerned about the starting date of training camp," Reid said. "He had all the dates down and he knew them. Amazing."

NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell praised Johnson for his leadership skills.

"He was a teacher to many players both on and off the field and devoted his life to the game of football," Goodell said in a statement. "He had a positive influence on scores of young men, and leaves behind a wonderful legacy."

Perfect into 6th, Buehrle unravels vs Twins



MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—Coming off the 18th perfect game in major league history, Mark Buehrle retired

the first 17 batters on Tuesday to set a record with 45 consecutive outs before the Minnesota Twins rallied for a 5-3 victory over the Chicago White Sox.

Buehrle (11-4) lost what would have been his second straight perfect game and his no-hitter with two outs in the sixth. He wound up allowing five runs and five hits in 6 1-3 innings.

He surpassed the mark of 41 straight batters set by San Francisco's Jim Barr in 1972 and tied by Buehrle's teammate Bobby Jenks, a reliever, in 2007.

Athletics 9, Red Sox 8, 11 innings

At Boston, Rajai Davis singled home Mark Ellis in the ninth inning to send the game into extra innings, then did it again in the 11th to give Oakland the win over Boston.

Boston led 7-4 when Jonathan Papelbon blew just his third save in 28 opportunities, thanks in part to two ninth-inning throwing errors by short-stop Nick Green. It was still 7-7 with two outs in the 11th when Ellis doubled off Manny Delcarmen (2-2) and scored on Davis' single to right.

Rays 6, Yankees 2

At St. Petersburg, Florida, Scott Kazmir outpitched CC Sabathia to win for the first time in more than two months as Tampa Bay downed New York.

Evan Longoria hit a solo homer and Carl Crawford had an RBI triple off Sabathia (10-7), and AL East-leading New York lost for just the second time in 12 games since the All-Star break.

Rangers 7, Tigers 3

At Arlington, Texas, Ian Kinsler drove in three runs and rookie Elvis Andrus homered and had three as Texas trounced Detroit.

Kinsler, who was in a huge funk at the plate that shrunk his batting average from .272 to .242., highlighted a four-run second with a two-run triple. Kinsler had just 16 hits in his last 103 at-bats. Detroit is 4-8 since the All-Star break and has scored three runs or less eight times in that span.

Royals 4, Orioles 3, 11 innings

At Baltimore, Mark Teahen led off the 11th inning with a 45-foot single and scored on a single by John



Chicago White Sox pitcher Mark Buehrle tips his hat to the crowd after giving up three runs during the seventh inning of a baseball game Tuesday, July 28, 2009 in Minneapolis.

Buck as Kansas City edged Baltimore.

Billy Butler hit a two-run homer and Willie Bloomquist added a solo shot for Kansas City.

Teahen opened the 11th by topping a ball down the first-base line. Catcher Matt Wieters and pitcher Danys Baez (4-4) watched the ball stop on the chalk halfway down the line.

Angels 7, Indians 6

At Anaheim, California, Gary Matthews Jr. hit a tie-breaking three-run double in the eighth inning as the Los Angeles Angels survived another meltdown by Cleveland's All-Star closer Brian Fuentes for their major league-leading 33rd comeback victory.

Juan Rivera's RBI single tied it earlier in the eighth for the Angels, whose latest remarkable rally made up for another poor performance by their starting rotation and closer. Matthews capped the comeback with a two-out drive to left-center off reliever Tony

Sipp, the Indians' third pitcher of the inning.

Mariners 4, Blue Jays 3

At Seattle, Ichiro Suzuki singled with two outs in the ninth to score Rob Johnson as Seattle beat Toronto to snap a four-game losing streak.

Suzuki golfed the pitch nearly off the dirt and in front of center fielder Vernon Wells for the first game-ending hit of his career.

David Aardsma (3-3) got the win pitching the ninth. He allowed a leadoff single but retired the next three batters.

Cardinals 10, Dodgers 0

At St. Louis, the Los Angeles slumped to a third successive loss for the first time this season, thumped the St. Louis Cardinals.

St. Louis pitcher Adam Wainwright went eight scoreless innings, striking out five and issuing just one walk.

By contrast, L.A. starter Chad Billingsley conceded six runs in the sixth inning. He had a one-hit shutout going entering the inning.

The Dodgers had gone 99 games without losing three in a row, breaking a franchise record dating back to 1965.

Marlins 4, Braves 3

At Miami, pinch-hitter Ross Gload hit a two-run homer with one out in the bottom of the ninth to lift Florida over Atlanta.

The win moved the Marlins a game ahead of the Braves in the fight for second place in the NL East.

Cody Ross was walked to start the ninth and advanced on a sacrifice before Gload pulled a pitch into the right-field seats for the walk-off winner.

Astros 11, Cubs 6

At Chicago, Houston overcame an injury to ace pitcher Roy Oswalt and defeated Chicago.

Oswalt left the game in the second inning with a strained lower back. He won his three previous decisions and was 4-1 with a 2.40 ERA in his past eight starts.

Houston's Geoff Blum hit a tiebreaking homer in the seventh inning and Miguel Tejada also connected and had a season-high five RBIs.

Mets 4, Rockies 0

In New York, the hosts continued their much-need-

ed form improvement, winning a fourth successive game by shutting down Colorado.

Mets pitcher Mike Pelfrey again flustered the Rockies, running his scoreless innings streak against them to 20. Pelfrey got into bases-loaded jams in the fourth and sixth innings, but escaped both times.

Phillies 4, Diamondbacks 3

At Phoenix, Shane Victorino homered and drove in two runs as Philadelphia edged Arizona.

Victorino hit a solo homer, his eighth, and added an RBI double and a single for the NL East leaders.

Cole Hamels pitched eight dominant innings for the Phillies, giving up only one run, walking none and striking out nine.

Giants 3, Pirates 2

At San Francisco, Eugenio Velez homered early and had a tie-breaking RBI double in the sixth as San Francisco held off Pittsburgh.

Velez, who was recalled from the minor leagues on Monday, hit a solo homer with two outs in the second, then doubled in the sixth to drive in Fred Lewis and put the Giants ahead 2-1. Velez's homer to right-center was his first for 11 months.

The Pirates have lost four straight.

Padres 3, Reds 2

At Cincinnati, Kevin Kouzmanoff doubled twice and added a tiebreaking sacrifice fly in San Diego's tight win over Cincinnati.

Reds pitcher Bronson Arroyo gave up nine hits in 6 1-3 innings, including the doubles by Kouzmanoff who is 11 for 16 over his career against Arroyo.

Kouzmanoff put the Padres up 3-2 with a sacrifice fly in the seventh.

Nationals 8, Brewers 3

At Milwaukee, Washington matched its longest winning streak of the season, making it four straight by downing Milwaukee.

Nyjer Morgan hit a homer on the second pitch of the game, Adam Dunn followed in the fourth with a towering 445-foot blast that took one hop and bounced out of Miller Park, and Christian Guzman capped it with a three-run shot in the eighth.

Washington, which still has the worst record in the majors at 32-68, has won six of its past eight under interim manager Jim Riggleman.

Bobcats and Hornets complete Okafor-Chandler trade



CHARLOTTE, N.C.

(AP)—The New Orleans Hornets finally found a taker for Tyson Chandler. It took a deal with tinkering Charlotte coach Larry Brown, who was willing to jettison the Bobcats' first draft pick.

Emeka Okafor was sent to the Hornets on Tuesday for Chandler, another former No. 2 overall pick. The trade involving 26-year-old centers brought financial relief to both teams and confidence they'll each thrive with a new man in the middle.

The Hornets have been trying to unload the 7-foot-1 Chandler for several months. A trade last season to Oklahoma City was rescinded after Chandler failed a physical amid concerns over a lingering toe injury.

"I'm very, very excited and thrilled about this new opportunity," Chandler said in a conference call.

Brown was willing to gamble on the injury-prone, athletic big man who can also play power forward and is three inches taller than Okafor.

"We're getting a young kid who is long and athletic and can play multiple positions and fills a need that we obviously have," Brown said.

The Hornets were intrigued by Okafor's superior rebounding and durabil-

ity. New Orleans gets a reliable big man with a longer contract as it tries to recover from last season's first-round playoff exit.

"Emeka is one of the premier centers in the NBA with All-Star caliber scoring and rebounding averages throughout his career," Hornets general manager Jeff Bower said. "His potential to improve is endless once you put him on the court running with Chris Paul."

Chandler had the best season of his career (2007-08) playing with Paul. The pair comprised a constant alley-oop threat when Chandler was healthy, and the two were close off the court.

"I'm losing a great friend, a brother. T.C. is my man. ... I'm going to miss him," said Paul, who was attending a basketball camp in New Orleans.

"It's going to take some time to see how this works out," Paul continued. "I want Emeka to come in here and be the best player he's ever been. From today on out, that's my teammate. ... Hopefully we can eventually have the same relationship that me and Tyson had."

The deal is the fourth trade Charlotte has made since managing partner Michael Jordan hired Brown before last season. Brown, in his record ninth NBA head coaching job, has continued his history of numerous trades to mold the team into his versatile, defensive-

minded liking.

Now it includes sending the centerpiece of Charlotte's new franchise to the city's old team.

Two years after the Hornets bolted Charlotte, the expansion Bobcats took Okafor with the No. 2 pick in the 2004 draft—after Orlando grabbed Dwight Howard.

Okafor had injury problems early in his career, but played all 82 games in each of the last two seasons. He averaged 13.2 points and 10.1 rebounds in another solid, but unspectacular season under Brown, who later questioned his basketball fire.

"I wanted him to have a passion and work on his game," Brown said Tuesday. "I think he made unbelievable progress in that regard. When we had an exit meeting this past season he told me he was going to do that, he was going to work on his game. ... This was a basketball decision. It had nothing to do with Emeka."

But Chandler, the No. 2 pick in the 2001 draft after declaring for the NBA out of high school, faces injury questions.

Chandler averaged 8.8 points and 8.7 rebounds in only 45 games last season. He then underwent procedures on his left ankle and toe in May after being ineffective in the first-round series loss to Denver.

NBA BRIEFS

Nash says Shaq will fit right in with LeBron

NEW YORK (AP)—One NBA star who has played with Shaquille O'Neal thinks the 37-year-old center will fit in just fine with LeBron James. Two-time MVP Steve Nash told The Associated Press on Tuesday that he thinks O'Neal understands he is isn't in the prime of his career and will have to share the spotlight. Nash's Phoenix Suns traded O'Neal to the Cleveland Cavaliers last month, where he'll look to bring James his first championship. Nash says O'Neal is still a great player but James is going to be the focal point.

Bucks sign first-rounder Jennings

MILWAUKEE (AP)—The Milwaukee Bucks signed first-round draft pick Brandon Jennings to a two-year contract worth almost \$4.5 million on Tuesday. Jennings was picked 10th overall in June and signed the rookie-scale deal that includes team options for 2011-12 and 2012-13. The slot for the 10th pick pays at least \$3.75 million over two years, but teams can sign players for slightly than the scale. Jennings will make a just over \$2.16 million this season and \$2.33 million in 2010-11. "I'm excited to sign my contract and make my NBA career official," Jennings said. "I look forward to working with Coach (Scott) Skiles and learning everything I can from him, as well as my teammates. I can't wait to get the season started and contribute to the success of our team."

Pacers add depth, sign former Thunder guard Watson

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—The Indiana Pacers have signed free agent guard Earl Watson to a multiyear contract. Terms of the deal were not released Tuesday. The 6-foot-1 veteran was waived earlier this month by Oklahoma City. He also has played with Seattle, Memphis and Denver in eight NBA seasons. Watson adds depth to an Indiana team that has already lost one guard, Jarrett Jack, in free agency and is likely to lose another, Marquis Daniels, this offseason. Last week, the Pacers declined to match Toronto's \$20 million offer sheet for Jack. Daniels' agent has said he is heading to Boston. Watson has averaged 7.3 points and 4.6 assists over his career, including 6.6 points and 5.8 assists last season for the Thunder.

2009 Shirley's Basketball League Banquet



Members and officials of G4S pose with their third place trophy.



The Advance X-Terminators pose with their runner-up trophy.



Far left, Micronesia Brokers, Inc. took home the biggest award of the night, the championship trophy.



Left, the Mythical Five members, from left, G4S' Junar Guiab, Fiesta's Elmer Esdreton, Shirley's Fradel Sedillo, Advance's Rocyl Ritual, and MBI's Art Trajano.

Photos by
ROSELYN B. MONROY



G4S' Amancio Chavez is all smiles after receiving the best in steals trophy during the awards ceremony for the 2009 Inaugural Shirley's Coffee Shop Basketball League last Tuesday at Shirley's Susupe.



Scoring champion Mike Olaitiman, right, of Advance X-Terminators receives his trophy from league coordinator Boy Lingcaso.



Regular season MVP and best in assists winner Fradel Sedillo of Shirley's poses with awards ceremony host Macoi Aguda.



Junar Guiab of G4S averaged 75.47 percent from the foul line to take the best in free throw average plum.



Best Coach Kitz Barja, right, of champion Micronesia Brokers, Inc. receives his trophy from league coordinator Boy Lingcaso.



Three-point king Elmer Esdreton of Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan shows his trophy.



Tournament of Champions targets 200 golfers

Organizers of the 2009 Tournament of Champions are looking to have 200 golfers playing in the two-day event at the Laolao Bay Golf Resort.

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Saipan Tribune Sports

Favre says no to a comeback with the Vikings

The purple No. 4 jerseys with "FAVRE" on the back were already in heavy circulation around the Twin Cities and it seemed almost inevitable that Brett Favre would end his second retirement to join the Minnesota Vikings.

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Rezne tops heat in 50m breaststroke



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Rezne Wong, seen here competing in a local tournament early this year, resets both the CNMI National and 17 to 18 age group marks in the 50m breaststroke in Rome, Italy during the 13th FINA World Championships.

Resets CNMI, age group marks

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

CNMI swimmer Rezne Wong finished first on his heat en route to two record-smashing performance in the 50m breaststroke event in Day 3 of the 13th FINA World Championships in Rome, Italy.



Wong timed in at 31.62 seconds in the 50m breaststroke swim to rule Heat 5 and beat eight other swimmers, including teammate Kai Staal.

On top of winning his heat, the 18-year-old swimmer also set a new CNMI National and age group marks he recorded just a couple of months ago. Wong holds the previous CNMI

National and age group records of 32.55 seconds posted during the 2009 Guam Championships in May.

To date, Wong has logged four records in Italy. In Day 1 last Sunday morning (Sunday evening on Saipan), he broke both the CNMI National and age group records in the 100m breaststroke. Wong was on Heat 4 in the 100m breaststroke and clocked in at 1:08.79 to eclipse the 1:10.21 he set on Dec. 27, 2008 during a meet in Guam.

The Marianas High School graduate, who is probably representing the CNMI to

See REZNE on Page 26

Barnes to attend IAAF Congress in Germany



Barnes

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Northern Marianas Athletics president Kurt Barnes will be attending the 47th IAAF Congress, joining more than 200 officials in an important meeting in Berlin, Germany next month.

The IAAF Congress, which was first held in 1912 in Stockholm, Sweden, will run from Aug. 12 and 13, two



days before the start of the 12th IAAF World Championships in Athletics (Aug. 15 to 23).

In an email to *Saipan Tribune* yesterday, Barnes said officials from the 213 member-nations of the International Association of Athletics Federations, will choose the next IAAF president at the Congress.

"I do not know if the current president [Lamine Diack

See BARNES on Page 26

Sese leads awardees in Shirley's caging

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



Micronesian Brokers, Inc. playmaker Don Sese claimed the Finals MVP award in the 2009 Inaugural Shirley's Coffee Shop Invitational Basketball League after stepping up in Game 2 of their title series against Advance X-Terminators.

Sese scored only five points in MBI's Game 1 win, 74-71, as he spent the night guarding Advance's Mike Olaitiman and at the same time orchestrating their team's offense.

In Game 2, Sese was still hounding

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Micronesian Brokers, Inc.'s Don Sese is all smiles after receiving the Finals MVP trophy in the 2009 Inaugural Shirley's Coffee Shop Invitational Basketball League during an awards banquet at Shirley's Susupe last Tuesday night.



Olaitiman with the help of Ryan Cabrera. However, the MBI guard was also active on offense, especially in the fourth quarter when he led the eventual champion's break-away. Sese finished with 22 points in MBI's series-clinching win in Game 2, 89-70.

Sese, other top individual performers, and the Top 3 finishers in the inaugural league were feted during an awards banquet at Shirley's Susupe last Tuesday night.

Fradel Sedillo of host Shirley's took the regular season MVP plum and the best in assists trophy after averaging 3.7 assists per game.

Sedillo also made it to the Mythical Team, joining Fiesta Resort & Spa's Elmer Esdrelon, G4S' Junar Guiab, Advance's Rocyl Ritual, and MBI's Art Trajano.

Trajano, Guiab, and Esdrelon claimed one more individual award each with the MBI center winning the best in blockshots award. He averaged 1.25 blocks per match in the regular season.

Guiab had a 75.47 percent clip from the 15-foot line to notch the best in free throw

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Athlete's Name: Clayton Kenty
Age: 18
Sports: Athletics
Team: CNMI Athletics Team

Late bloomer excels in athletics

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Clayton Kenty's involvement in athletics started out from a simple invitation from a friend and little did he expect this will lead to a ticket to the World Championships.

"Two years ago, I think it was in October, Tyrone (Omar) invited me to go to the track [Oleai Sports Complex] if I were not busy. I said okay and the next day I was there," said Kenty, who will be representing the CNMI to the

12th IAAF World Championships in Athletics in Berlin, Germany next month.

"I just want to try it and see if I can do it. The NMA coaches and Tyrone and other old members of the team were very patient in teaching and giving tips. After almost two years, I improved and then competed in the Oceania Area Championships last

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Clayton Kenty performs hurdles drill during a training session at the Oleai Sports Complex last week.

